

Tuesday March 31 1998

Abu Dhabi D 8.50
Alaska US 2
Australia FF 10
Austria AS 50
Belgium BF 70
Brazil BR 100
Canada CA 12.50
Czechia CZ 1.00
Denmark DK 17
Ecuador EC 8.50
Finland FI 15
France FR 15
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Greece D 500
Hong Kong HK 35
Hungary H 200
Iceland IK 185
India IN 1.50
Israel IS 1.50
Japan JP 1.50
Korea KR 1.50
Kuwait KW 0.50
Latvia LV 2
Lithuania LT 3000
Luxembourg LF 65
Malaysia M 270
Malta ML 0.50
Mauritius MU 4.25
Mexico MX 10
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Norway NR 100
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The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

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Battle for the soul of British Judaism

G2 with European weather

A New York atrocity

Teenage murderers of Central Park

G2 pages 8/9

Education

Bilingual or bust

G2 pages 12/13

Two miles below the Antarctic, a world frozen in time for 30m years



Life clings precariously to the Antarctic ice. Now scientists are about to search for older lifeforms they believe survive in vast lakes beneath it

Tim Radford
Science Editor

SCIENTISTS are poised to explore a mysterious lost world more than two miles below Antarctica. A huge lake, insulated by millions of years of ice, could hold living creatures that inhabited the planet more than 30 million years ago.

British, French, Russian and American scientists met in St Petersburg at the weekend to agree on what will, in effect, be a landing on another planet: the painstaking venture into a body of water the size of Lake Ontario, more than 12,000ft under the icecap at

the Russian base of Vostok. The lake was "mapped" by space-based and ground-based instruments in 1996, and the Russians have penetrated to within 150 yards of the surface of the water. But then the drilling had to stop.

The researchers face a dilemma. They have to find a way to explore the mysterious world of Lake Vostok without contaminating it with life from the surface.

They know that there will be forms of life down there: Russian and American microbiologists have been examining microbes in samples of ice laid down 400,000 years ago. "We've found some really bizarre things - things that we have never seen before," said Richard Hoover of Nasa. He and his Russian colleagues

have given the microscopic creatures temporary nicknames, such as Eklinton, Mickey Mouse, Porpoise and Sphere. The discovery at such depths raises the hope that even stranger things lie waiting to be discovered under Vostok.

Dr Cynan Ellis-Evans of the British Antarctic Survey, one of the experts at the St Petersburg meeting, said the researchers were likely to use a hot-water lance to cut deeper into the ice. Then they plan to lower a thermal probe, which will sterilise itself as it descends. The ice will freeze again and close behind it. When the "cryobot" reaches the water, it will release a "hydrobot" to begin sampling the chemistry of the lake.

"It's a one way trip, isolat-

ing itself from microbes in the upper ice," he said. "We are expecting to find new things - and yes, it is like going to another planet. People who work on Martian environments and the Jovian system all came along and said it had exactly the same feel."

Nobody knows why lakes should exist under the largest body of ice on the planet. Antarctica was once a mild, forested landscape: even now, geologists are still discovering fossil ferns and carnivorous dinosaurs in the polar mountains.

The glaciers began to close over the continent 40 million years ago. Lake Vostok could be in a rift valley - a deep fissure in the continent's crust - and if it is, the huge depth of sediment below the

water could be a "time capsule" of the planet's history.

Some geologists argue that there could be some form of volcanic heat deep in the rocks providing the energy for unusual forms of life.

But there are other hypotheses: for instance, ice may have melted to form the lake as it sheared over the bedrock.

"I'm more of the feeling that there wasn't a lake to start with: that one evolved in more recent times," said Dr Ellis-Evans.

The voyage of discovery will take years. Nasa scientists regard the project as a rehearsal for the exploration of the ocean of Jupiter's moon Europa, another mysterious body of water, trapped under miles of ice.

Life depends on water, and Mars once had rivers but is now arid. US scientists want to launch an orbiter to explore Europa - and then devise a nuclear-powered probe to drive through the crust and into the ocean beneath the surface.

They expect to learn valuable lessons from Lake Vostok. Other researchers hope to learn a lot more about planet Earth.

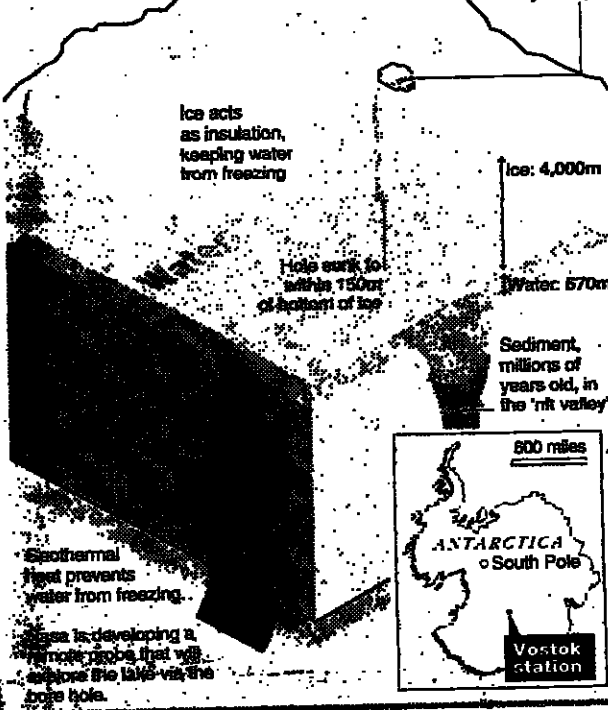
Antarctica is 58 times as big as Britain, and more than 99 per cent of it is covered in thick ice - but there could be hundreds of lakes below the ice sheet.

"Every single one of them could be, potentially, of significance," said Dr Ellis-Evans.

"This is a whole new world opening up for us."

Time capsule

An ancient lake sealed beneath the Antarctic ice cap is soon to be explored



'It is like going to another planet. People who work on Martian environments and the Jovian system all came along and said it had exactly the same feel'

Cynan Ellis-Evans



Disabled claim victory Glitter child porn charges

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

DISABILITY campaigners last night claimed victory in their battle to stop benefit cuts as ministers moved to clear the decks of anything that could upset the wider welfare reform programme.

Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, agreed a statement that future savings would come from "helping disabled people to get jobs, rather than reducing benefit entitlement".

A delighted Lord Ashley, the veteran Labour peer who has been leading the defence of disability benefits, said: "It's all over, really."

The joint statement was agreed at talks at which Ms Harman announced further concessions on the current programme of checks on disabled people's eligibility for higher rates of disability living allowance (DLA).

The changes to the "benefit integrity project" were the third batch of social security concessions in recent days.

Last Thursday's welfare reform green paper made plain that proposals to means-test DLA, or convert it into care services rationed by local authorities, had been dropped.

On Friday, the Government announced a reprieve for 65,000 householders, many of them elderly, due to be hit from tomorrow by a curb on council tax benefit.

Yesterday's olive branches seem to confirm that ministers have been told to ensure that nothing jeopardises the broader welfare reform programme - even if that means the loss of short-term savings.

The DLA checks affect people receiving allowances which from tomorrow are worth up to £37.15 a week. At least 4,000 people have so far had their payments stopped or cut, although one in five who has appealed has won reinstatement at the first stage of review.

Ministers have already responded to protests by requiring reference to a third party - such as the claimant's GP or carer - before benefit is stopped or reduced.

turn to page 3, column 4



Gary Glitter: accused of downloading pornography

GEOFFREY GIBBS

GARY GLITTER, the glam rock star who sprang to fame in the 1970s with hits such as 'I'm the Leader of the Gang I Am' and 'Hello, Hello, I'm Back' again was yesterday charged with 50 child pornography offences.

The 53-year-old singer was arrested after going to Staple Hill police station in Bristol to be interviewed about his alleged offences after his return from three months in Cuba.

He was charged under his real name, Paul Gadd, and released on bail to appear before Northavon magistrates on May 18.

Glitter was first arrested last November when he took a home computer to a branch of the PC World chain in Bristol to be repaired. Staff allegedly discovered indecent images stored on the computer and alerted police. Officers later searched the singer's Somerset country cottage, his London home and a yacht.

Police said yesterday he had been charged with 50 offences of downloading indecent photographs of children under the age of 16 contrary to the 1978 Child Protection Act. The rock star also faces 50 alternative charges of possessing indecent photographs of children under 16.

His lawyer says Glitter is "totally innocent" of any wrongdoing.

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Sketch

Tough on crime, soft on questions



Simon Hoggart

LABOUR'S successful slogan "Tough on crime, soft on questions" always translated more simply as "Tough on crime, the causes will have to wait".

And by golly, both sides are tough now. Young tearaways, drug dealers, football hooligans: everyone agrees that the thing to do is to lock 'em all up. Yesterday one minister told us at Home Office Questions — and was it unfair of me to detect a smidgeon of pride in her voice? — that the prison population should reach 72,000 in two years.

This means that roughly one adult in 500 will be in prison, or almost one male in 250. And the prison population is growing by 14 every day the courts sit.

We have already seen the return of the prison hulk (they had them in Belfast Lough, too, until IRA men started trying to tunnel their way to freedom). What next? A Gulag in the Scottish highlands? Transportation to the Falklands?

Or why not try the old Latin American device of the Disappeared Ones? If Group 4 were handling security, no one would think it odd: prisoners would simply vanish, their names deleted from the hard disk in some Home Office computer.

Call me old-fashioned, but I sometimes yearn for the day when someone disagrees with the new consensus of untrammelled toughness. I want lefties demanding an end to "this appalling culture of blame the culprit". I want bearded sociologists telling us once more that "society is to blame", churchmen preaching sermons on the theme "we are all guilty".

Bizarrely, the only person who seemed to think that even — or perhaps particularly — people who got banged up by the police might have any

rights at all was Douglas Hogg, last seen in a silly hat making a fool of himself at the beef ban talks. He asked the Home Secretary to "take steps to make sure that the proper interests of the defendant are not diminished".

Jack Straw seemed so surprised at this question — after all, if they weren't guilty the police wouldn't have arrested them, would they? — that all he could answer was a slightly shocked "Yes".

Such iconoclastic daring could not have come from the Labour benches. David Amess (Con, Southend W) rose and, with heavy sarcasm, thanked the Labour whips "for their kindness and courtesy in inviting me to room W1 for today's dress rehearsal for Home Office questions, when I would have been invited to ask a helpful supplementary".

This happens fairly often. The whips are supposed to go down the list of MPs who have tabled questions and invite the Labour ones to this gathering, where they are told what "household" — that is, obedient — question they would be well advised to ask when their turn comes.

A typical example came yesterday from Anne Campbell (Lab, Cambridge) who praised the Government's human rights bill, and added a blob of whipped cream, or possibly vegetable fat substitute, on top: "Will he join me in welcoming the fact that it is New Labour which is putting things right?"

(Perhaps Mrs Campbell, whom I rather admire, did not have that question scripted and made it up herself. In which case it is even more disgraceful.)

In Mr Amess's case, clearly some functionary didn't know that he was a Tory and sent him the letter anyway. Later Tim Collins (C, Westmorland) raised a phoney point of order about the Prime Minister's press secretary, Alastair Campbell, who had "scandalously abused journalists who had written quite proper and accurate stories" about Mr Blair's relationship with Rupert Murdoch.

It was sweet of Mr Collins, a former spin doctor himself, to care so much about our sensibilities. But I fear that, in the privacy of our offices, Mr Campbell arouses less terror than mirth.

Review

Dedicated fellow back in fashion

Brian Logan

Ray Davies
Theatre Royal, Drury Lane

THE sunset of Ray Davies' career is proving as distinctive as the Waterloo one he immortalised in song 30 years ago. On the back of Britpop and Damon Albarn, Davies carved a niche for himself, not only as a purveyor of some of English pop's most succulent nuggets, but as a raconteur too.

His solo shows at the 1995 Edinburgh Festival are the stuff of legend; his autobiography, *X-Ray*, won acclaim for its perspectives on celebrity; and last week, he released a live album, *The Storyteller*, which recreates for the armchair listener the intimate and acoustic performances of both his great and his dreadful songs.

Davies takes the stage alone, save for a backing guitarist whose electric instrument gives the lie to the show's professed unplugged nature. Mind you, he needs to make a little noise: his chosen London venue is the Theatre Royal.

He claims that his storytelling-and-song biography "packs dramatic punch" gone to the old boy's head? At any rate, his is now the kind of material that's nicer listened to from comfy velvet chairs than from a mesh pit. The man who headed the band whose growling guitar on *You Really Got Me* was heavy metal's primal scream is more downbeat these days.

His sound is meatier live than on CD, although that's

about all that is different. It is to record a live album then take a carbon copy show on tour. But, notwithstanding two crowd-pleasing Kinks numbers at the top of the show, that's what Davies does. Even his spontaneous patter proves — well, not spontaneous at all.

The Storyteller is a concept album. The concept is Ray Davies. It's about his life: the songs and the stories segue into one another as Ray hauls himself from Highgate to the high life with his brother and a green amp. The stories flesh out the songs: the best tells of the brothers' discovery of distortion, as Dave savages that amp with his mum's knitting needles. It's nice to hear of needles having a positive influence in pop.

The charm of Davies' early storytelling was their intimacy, an elusive quality in a theatre where helicopters take the stage every other night of the week. But, though they are more fire than incendiary, and though they display an eagerness to invest the trivial incidents of his past with a dramatic weight they cannot always carry, Davies still visibly relishes spinning his tales.

It's not surprising: while his later songs are either lyrically inane or so conversational and biographical that he might as well be reading them from his book, his stories must make him feel that what he is creating now still appeals to the punters. It was clear, as he teased out yet another yarn as part of the tantalising build-up to *You Really Got Me*, that they certainly do that.

This review appeared in some editions yesterday.

Over 15,000 given all clear after repeat smear tests

MORE than 15,000 women were raised about practices at the now closed pathology laboratory at the Hospital of St Cross in Rugby. But yesterday Rod Griffiths, West Midlands director of public health, said that of the 15,166 women whose slides were re-examined, 90 per cent of original readings were found to be correct. Eighteen women were advised to have further gynaecological examinations.

Mr Davies' intention to stay on will help his expected plan to run as a "continuity candidate" for the leadership, moving smoothly from the Welsh department to the assembly in a manoeuvre that would please civil servants. He said yesterday he hoped to use his "skill and experience" as Welsh secretary to get the assembly off to the best possible start.

However, a dual role as secretary of state and leadership candidate could prompt claims of anti-democratic practice



Tony Blair announcing \$40 million funding for IT training and \$30 million to help small firms beat the 2000 problem

PHOTOGRAPH: ADAM BUTLER

Blair funds bug-buster training but won't help public sector

David Gow
Industrial Editor

THE NHS, local authorities and other public sector bodies face a bill of more than \$3 billion to tackle the millennium bug but can rely on no extra financial help from Whitehall, the Prime Minister said yesterday.

Stepping up the Government's campaign to beat the computer glitch that could, if unchecked, bring essential services to a halt at the start of the year 2000, Tony Blair announced government funding to help train 20,000 "bug-busters" over the next year.

But he ran into immediate flak from critics that this and other measures were inadequate to deal with a problem that, he admitted, was already affecting firms and could lead to systemic failure.

The \$3 billion public sector bill is three times the Government's original estimate four months ago.

"If we don't tackle this problem, the economy will slow as many companies divert resources to cope with computer failures and some even go bust," he told more than 1,000 executives of small and medium-sized firms at a London conference.

He added: "This is one deadline that is non-negotiable... If we do not act, the result will be loss of money, power and influence, perhaps on a disastrous scale."

Mr Blair also urged international action in five areas: power, telecommunications, finance, defence and transport. Many business executives are especially worried by the prospect of computer fail-

ure in air traffic control, with 30 unnamed foreign airports earmarked as most at risk.

The Prime Minister indicated that, at home, the NHS is a source of concern, with some hospitals behind schedule and every NHS body due to report by tonight on their plans and budgets for 2000.

But, after Mr Blair admitted that the cost to the public sector could be \$3 billion and rising, Barbara Roche, trade minister, ruled out extra government funding. "At the moment it will come from existing budgets," she told a news conference.

However, Robin Guenier, head of Taskforce 2000, an independent campaign group that used to advise the Tory government, said he esti-

mated the cost to the NHS alone could be between \$750 million and \$2 billion.

"Planning in the NHS has barely started. Does Frank Dobson [Health Secretary] have the slightest idea he's going to have to find an extra \$1 billion or more?" he said. He wants the Prime Minister to confirm that the bug represents a national emergency and to create a mood of "informed anxiety".

The Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman, Malcolm Bruce, said the \$3 billion public sector bill could not be met from existing budgets and the Treasury should raid the contingency reserve to help local authorities, the NHS and others. Cheryl Gillan, Conservative trade spokeswoman,

said cuts in services would have to be made. Don Cruickshank, chairman of Action 2000, the official campaign body whose budget was boosted yesterday to \$17 million, is co-ordinating contingency efforts by suppliers of essential services to beat the bug. He said the NHS faced particular problems because, while it had plans for major incidents or civil emergencies, it was fragmented into myriad bodies, from GP surgeries to health authorities, which handicapped its ability to cope.

Mr Blair disclosed that the bulk of the extra \$300 million given in this month's Budget for high technology skills would go to tackling the bug. He admitted that the IT indus-

try is already short of around 50,000 skilled staff.

These skill shortages are now so acute that young graduates are being offered six-figure salaries after six months' training, while one firm has suggested recruiting prisoners who have honed their IT skills at Her Majesty's pleasure. The Government is targeting young graduates, the older unemployed and retired people, although computer experts in the last group were snapped up long ago.

The Government will spend \$40 million setting up centres for IT training and a further \$30 million to help small firms. Firms will get a grant of an average \$1,300 for each of up to 20,000 trainees sent on accredited short courses.

Will the "century date change problem" affect PCs and other products?

Yes. About half the PCs sold in 1997 might have problems, and with older PCs the proportion could be higher. Many new PC programs also have problems. Unfortunately, these programs are "Year 2000 ready" not "Year 2000 compliant". That means they can use four digits for years, but allow programmers to use two.

Video cassette recorders, microwave ovens, cars, traffic lights and fire alarms might use "imbedded chips", in which the software can also have a date-change problem.

— Jack Schofield

mediate benefit from a fix. Serious campaigning did not start until 1996, and some people are starting to pay attention only now that disaster is imminent.

Why is the problem so hard to solve?

In programming terms it isn't, but there are billions of lines of program code, and some large companies run thousands of programs. There are not enough weekends left to go through them all, and the original code for some programs has been lost. It is not enough just to correct the code; it also needs to be validated and tested. And if you fix your own date-change problems, you may suffer from someone else's, because many systems are connected. Can we simply throw bodies at the problem? You cannot get the staff:

What is the Millennium Bug?

It's an inaccurate label for the "century date change problem". Many computer programs use only two digits to store the year: for example, 98 for 1998. This system breaks down at the turn of the century when 00 is assumed to mean 1900 instead of 2000. One solution is to use four digits to store the year. Another is to provide a different 100-year "window": if 1930-2030, then 21 is assumed to be 2021, not 1921. Microsoft is doing this in Windows 98, due out in June.

Programmers, particularly in the 1960s and 1970s when computing was more expensive than today, set up the two-digit system to save money. Why does it matter how the date is stored? Computer programs often use the year in calculating salaries, mortgages and insurance payments, pensions and other benefits, and hospital records. On the millennium, supermarkets could find that deliveries are scrapped as being past their sell-by date, and machinery could be taken out of service because "records show" that it is decades past its maintenance date. Stock markets could crash and the government could be starved of funds. Would this mean the end of civilisation as we know it? Probably not. The problem has been recognised for decades, and big companies have been coping with it since the 1980s — when granting 25-year mortgages, for example.

Most pleas for action carried little weight in the 1990s, however, as there was no im-

Date with disaster

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Cook bars Islamic 'terror' group

Ian Black
Diplomatic Editor

BRITAIN has signalled a tough new policy on foreign Islamic militants by refusing to allow a group of Egyptians allegedly linked to terrorism to attend a conference in London.

Three Egyptian lawyers and an unknown number of other invitees from Europe, Morocco and Jordan have all been denied visas by British embassies to enter the country to take part in an event organised by the Rabita Islamiya (Islamic League), it was confirmed last night.

British and independent sources described the league as a front for hardline fundamentalist activists including former mujahideen who fought the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan with CIA help.

The ban is a first victory for the Egyptian government's campaign to persuade Britain to crack down on fundamentalists accused of involvement in terrorism and will be welcomed by other regimes facing similar problems at home.

It comes after Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, announced a \$1 million package to train members of the Egyptian security forces and is the first time the Labour government has enforced such a ban. Mr Cook said this month that Britain was working on legislation to make it a crime to conspire to commit acts of terrorism abroad or raise funds for that purpose.

Egypt has long been urging Britain to extradite a prominent London-based militant, Yasser al-Serri, sentenced to death in his absence for an attempt on the life of former prime minister Atef Sedki. But the evidence against him is said to be unsatisfactory.

Last November, gunmen belonging to the Gama'a al-Islamiya (Islamic Group) killed 58 foreign tourists, including six Britons, in the southern city of Luxor. After the massacre, Cairo complained that many European countries, including Britain, were sheltering Egyptian terrorist groups.

Muntasser al-Zayyat, who has represented Gama'a members, blamed the Egyptian government for putting pressure on Britain to deny him the visa and said yesterday he was considering an appeal. He was told by the British embassy in Cairo: "I believe your exclusion from the United Kingdom is conducive to the public good."

Abdul-Halim Mandour, another lawyer whose visa application was rejected, said: "I told them I was going to give a lecture about prisoners of conscience. I wasn't going to take part in terrorism."

The Islamic League was to hold a two-day conference on prisoners in Egypt and the Arab world. The event has now been postponed.

The visa ban was welcomed by Azam Tamimi, from the group Liberty for the Muslim World. "These people are just agitating against Muslims in this country. I am glad there is some scrutiny. If someone who is respectable holds an academic function or a political one that is disciplined, then by all means grant them visas. But not if they are holding a meeting solely to discredit others and frighten the local Muslim community."

Ron Davies wants to be Wales prime minister

Lucy Ward
Political Correspondent

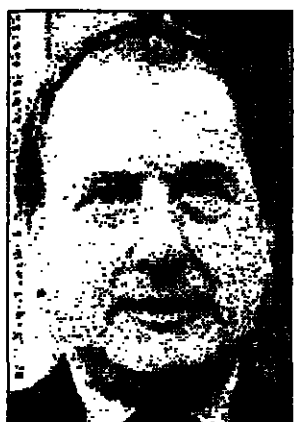
RON DAVIES, the Welsh Secretary, ended weeks of speculation yesterday by announcing his intention to enter the race to become Wales' first "prime minister".

But he said he had no plans to relinquish his cabinet post before the Welsh Assembly elections in May 1999.

He said he would seek to remain secretary of state for a subsequent two- or three-month transitional period.

Mr Davies voted against devolution in 1979, but went on to become one of his party's most committed advocates for a national assembly to give Welsh people "a real voice". The decision to run means Mr Davies is following the example of his Scottish counterpart, Donald Dewar, who has already opted to seek a place in the Edinburgh parliament. The Scottish Secretary, however, is expected to stand down from his cabinet post either this spring or summer, or just before the assembly elections this year.

Mr Davies' intention to



Ron Davies: plan to stand blessed by Tony Blair

stay on will help his expected plan to run as a "continuity candidate" for the leadership, moving smoothly from the Welsh department to the assembly in a manoeuvre that would please civil servants. He said yesterday he hoped to use his "skill and experience" as Welsh secretary to get the assembly off to the best possible start.

However, a dual role as secretary of state and leadership candidate could prompt claims of anti-democratic practice

during the handover of power. "He will be writing letters saying 'Dear Ron, Yours Ron'," said one source yesterday.

Mr Davies' two likely rivals to become Labour's contender are the Cardiff West MP Rhodri Morgan, who has already declared his intention to run, and Wayne David, last of Labour's European MPs.

Mr Morgan views himself as a "new beginning, anti-establishment candidate" with a wider appeal throughout Wales than his rivals, while Mr David, the youngest of the three, has strong European links likely to be needed by an assembly seeking to escape from the shadow of the British parliament.

Mr Davies was given Tony Blair's blessing for his proposed move yesterday, though the Welsh Secretary's Cabinet standing has steadily improved in recent months following initial speculation that he might be ousted in a reshuffle.

Possible candidates to replace Mr Davies at the Welsh Office include Home Office minister Alan Michael, a Cardiff MP, or Paul Murphy, MP for Torfaen.

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'There was a screaming noise from the tyres and a lot of smoke came out. It went off sideways — a lot of wooden bits shot up in the air'

Brian Gill, above, giving evidence



Jason Humble (artist's impression) is accused of shunting Karen Martin and Toby Exley to their death on a London dual carriageway because Mr Exley was 'driving like a prat'

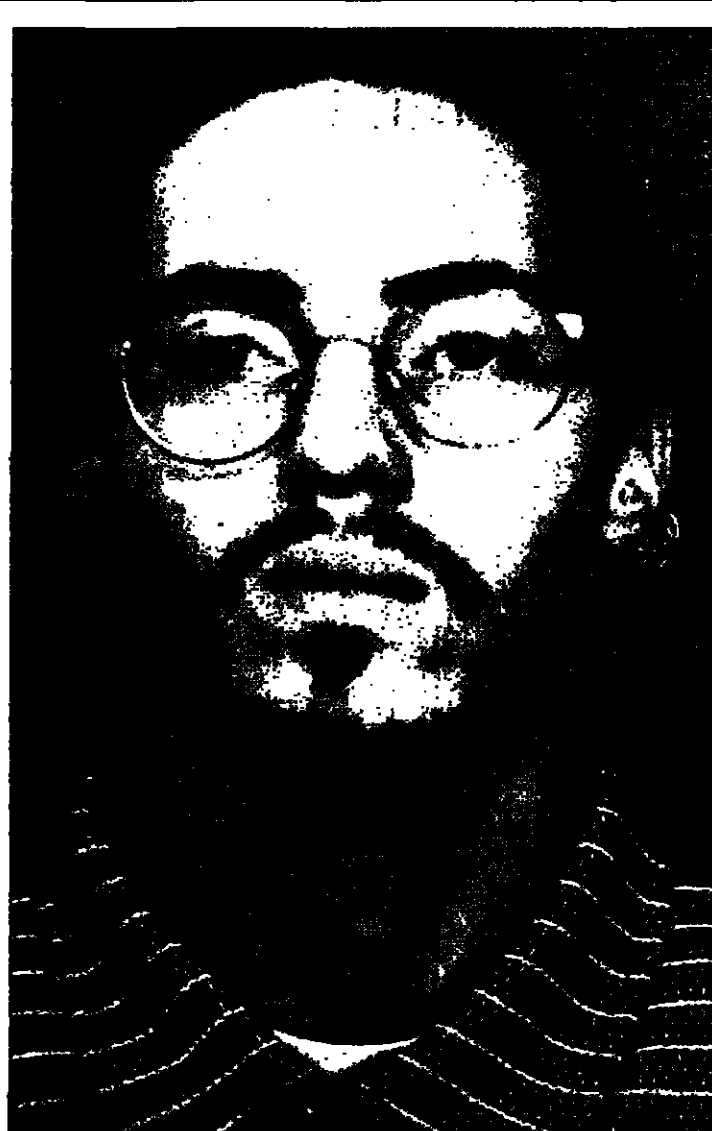


ILLUSTRATION: JULIA QUENZLER

Rally driver 'exacted fatal revenge'

Court told of car nudged into crash

Rory Carroll

A RALLY driver took revenge on a motorist who drove like "a prat" by nudging his car into the path of an oncoming vehicle, killing the motorist and his girlfriend instantly, a court heard yesterday.

Jason Humble shunted Toby Exley, aged 22, and Karen Martin, aged 26, three times before their black Ford

Fiesta crashed through the central reservation barrier on the A316 dual carriageway, said David Perry, prosecuting.

The oncoming motorist said their car appeared to be floating through the air before smashing into his own vehicle, after which he remembered nothing. Mr Exley and Ms Martin died from multiple injuries. Mr Humble, aged 33, who denies manslaughter and causing death by dangerous driving, allegedly told arrest-

ing police: "I think I am the best driver ever."

He admits driving on in his white three litre Vauxhall Senator after the incident in Hanworth, west London, on October 6 last year.

Mr Perry told the jury at the Old Bailey: "Toby Exley and Karen Martin died because the defendant became impatient with them. He used his skill as a driver — if skill it was — to nudge their car out of the way."

"You will hear it said he could do things with motor cars that other drivers cannot do."

A motorcyclist, Brian Gill, said the Fiesta was pushed. After moving through lines of traffic, Mr Gill said, he was gradually passed by the Fiesta. He then saw the bonnet

of the Senator come into contact with the Fiesta "square on".

"There was a screaming noise from the tyres and a lot of smoke came out. It went off sideways — a lot of wooden bits shot up in the air."

The defence suggested that Mr Gill had not seen the white Senator make contact with the Fiesta and that he had confused his evidence.

Mr Gill, aged 40, a teacher from north London, disagreed, maintaining that Sir Richard Wilson, the new Cabinet Secretary, and Mike Gannett, official head of the GIS, their presence and the concern of some Labour MPs on the committee not to create a field day for the Tories may take some heat off him.

MPs such as Mr Morgan complain of what he called the "control freak tendency". But there is no doubt that Mr Blair is 100 per cent behind his press secretary, despite the unease that such presidential conduct creates among some MPs on both sides of the Commons. "Alastair is a strong personality, with a strong grip and a strong determination to make sure the Government gets it right," one minister said last night.

other side of the road said he heard a horn beeping seconds before the crash.

Mr Humble, arrested on October 23 at his bungalow in Farnborough, Hampshire, admitted he had been the driver but denied ramming the Fiesta. Mr Perry told the jury: "It will be for you to assess whether his failure to come forward was truly the result of panic or prompted by realisation of guilt and fear of the truth."

Mr Humble allegedly told the police: "There's a minute possibility I touched them, but no way did I want to harm them at all. I want to tell you what really happened. I want to show you where the car is so you can see there's no damage on it. What the papers said never happened ... I

never rammed him." Mr Exley, from Teddington, Middlesex, and Ms Martin, from Twickenham, Middlesex, had been going out since meeting at an ice cream parlour eight months earlier.

They were returning to London after spending the evening with a friend at a pub in Hanworth, where Mr Exley drank half a pint of lager and Ms Martin a soft drink.

They were on the dual carriageway — known as the Great Chertsey Road — where the speed limit was 40 mph on one section but changed to 70 mph.

Mr Humble told police that Mr Exley had cut him up on a roundabout and was driving like "a prat". He said he sat behind him for a while and flashed him once or twice to

let him know he wanted to pass.

The Fiesta braked and he was forced to brake. Mr Humble allegedly said he thought Mr Exley was deliberately blocking him and was "pissed off".

"He was only doing 35 in a 40mph zone, making me wait. I dropped back and sat behind him for quite a distance and flashed him once or twice."

In the fortnight before Mr Humble was arrested, some media reports suggested that Mr Exley, whose blood-alcohol test was negative despite traces of cocaine and marijuana, was the victim of a drugs-related murder.

"But the truth was it was pointless and random. At some time before death he had actually used cannabis

and probably used cocaine, but there is nothing to suggest that at the time he was intoxicated either by drink or drugs — quite the opposite."

The incident, described as Britain's worst case of road rage, attracted huge media attention.

Mr Exley's family were furious when the News of the World claimed a revenge-seeking junkie had targeted Mr Exley.

Both victims lived with their parents. Mr Exley, who passed his test when he was 18, used to look after his Fiesta in the Martin's garage.

Mr Exley, a chef, and Ms Martin, who worked in an advertising agency, were buried in the same grave at Teddington.

The trial resumes today.

Campbell faces Commons grilling

Blair's press secretary accused of talking down to ministers

Michael White
Political Editor

THE Prime Minister's press secretary, Alastair Campbell, will be flanked by two senior Whitehall minders when he faces a Commons grilling next month over allegations that the Government's "control freak tendency" is leading him to talk down to cabinet ministers.

Mr Campbell will be questioned about his style after two faxes were leaked at the weekend in which he rebuked the Social Security Secretary, Harriet Harman, and her deputy, Frank Field.

Rhodri Morgan, the Labour chairman of the public administration select committee, told Radio 4's *The World at One* yesterday: "What is

odd to everybody is the authority of a civil servant. Alastair Campbell is a temporary civil servant talking down to ministers and administering a ticking off in this way — unless he had the full authority of the Prime Minister."

"If I had been a minister I think I would have been pretty upset about the tone of those, unless the first line was: 'Tony Blair has told me to tell you that you're quarrelling in public and it's time you stopped it, you're playing around like children, and I am administering this ticking off on behalf of the Prime Minister.'"

Mr Campbell had been due to take part in the committee's inquiry into the possible politicisation of the Government Information Service

(GIS) after a series of enforced resignations last summer among departmental press chiefs said not to fit Labour's pro-active style.

But last week's row over Mr Blair's phone calls with his Italian counterpart, Romano Prodi, and the media tycoon Rupert Murdoch put the spotlight on Mr Campbell, with complaints that he was being economical with the truth. So did Sunday's revelation that he had fired off two sharply worded faxes to Ms Harman and Mr Field over pre-Budget leaks, mainly to the Guardian.

Mr Campbell said nothing about the leaks yesterday, other than a stoical "Nothing ever surprises me". But ministers inside the Blair camp are adamant that Mr Campbell was merely doing his job with full prime ministerial authority, reminding ministers to stick to the rules of clearing media interviews with his office.

When he faces the first session of Mr Morgan's committee after the Easter recess Mr Campbell will do so in the company of two heavy hitters, Sir Richard Wilson, the new Cabinet Secretary, and Mike Gannett, official head of the GIS. Their presence and the concern of some Labour MPs on the committee not to create a field day for the Tories may take some heat off him.

MPs such as Mr Morgan complain of what he called the "control freak tendency". But there is no doubt that Mr Blair is 100 per cent behind his press secretary, despite the unease that such presidential conduct creates among some MPs on both sides of the Commons. "Alastair is a strong personality, with a strong grip and a strong determination to make sure the Government gets it right," one minister said last night.

Leader comment, page 9

Striker heads for a payout

John Mullan

H EADING a football has always been an occupational requirement for centre-forwards. Like outsmarting defenders and scoring enough goals to keep the manager happy.

Billy McPhail was a master of the art, once having a song penned in his honour after his hat-trick in Celtic's 1957 Scottish League Cup final win over Rangers.

But now Mr McPhail, who prided himself on winning almost every league challenge, claims he has paid a heavy price for his prowess. In a landmark case the 69-year-old is taking the Government to court in an attempt to win compensation for industrial injury, claiming that he has been brain damaged through years of heading the ball.

He said: "When I was playing, I was one of the few who actually headed the ball all of the time. Sometimes in a game, the ball came to you like a bullet, and, if it was a really wet day, it really soaked up the moisture."



Billy McPhail... "My brain has been half-flattened"

Mr McPhail blames his plight on the old leather balls, which used to increase in weight as they soaked up water. Today's variety are much lighter and less absorbent.

The Benefits Agency has rejected Mr McPhail's claim for a weekly payment of £70 but his appeal, which is backed by hospital specialists, will be heard later this month.

Doctors have detected softening in his brain tissue. They believe that the condition should be classed as an industrial injury, a move that could open the way for scores of claims.

Mr McPhail said: "What happened to me was like a boxer being continually hit. I'm in a hopeless way because my brain has been half-flattened. Anyone old enough will remember running to get out of the way when someone was taking a shot with the old ball on a wet day. These days, the ball is as light as a feather. But the old one gave you a real thud."

His action comes as medical researchers in Liverpool are studying 500 former footballers to establish whether there is a link between heading the ball and the onset of brain damage.

The programme was set up after the death of Danny Blanchflower, the former Tottenham Hotspur and Northern Ireland player. He suffered Alzheimer's Disease, and it was suspected that heading the ball and head clashes may have brought it on.

Disabled claim victory on benefits

continued from page 1

The further concessions include exclusion from the checks of 375,000 DLA claimants over age 65; a halving of the time taken to review negative decisions; a new questionnaire for the checks, whether by post or interview; extra training for staff involved in the exercise; and "improved statistical presentation" of results — taken to mean an end to practices that have caused the media to use inflated figures for fraudulent claims.

Describing the concessions as "major advances", Lord Ashley said: "These changes will reduce the errors and hardship."

The Government meanwhile sought yesterday to shift the focus to helping disabled people find work, where they are able to, by launching 12 pilot sites under an extension of the New Deal. Personal advisers will work with disabled people, as with lone parents in the parallel voluntary scheme.

Harriet Harman, page 8

If you're a regular saver, we think you deserve a regular bonus.

At the Halifax we've just launched a new Monthly Saver account that makes saving even more rewarding.

You can save a fixed amount between £5 and £250 each month which will earn an attractive 7.5% each year made up of a healthy interest rate of 5% and an annual bonus of 2.5%.

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The new Halifax Monthly Saver account

7.5%

one withdrawal a year and still get your bonus. And, if you're one of the lucky 25 winners in our Double Your Money competition, we'll double the amount you've invested over the first year.

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The rates of interest (5%) and bonus (2.5%) are variable. The figures quoted are gross. Interest and bonus will only be paid gross (i.e. before the deduction of interest) if you are registered with us as a non-tax payer. The new Monthly Saver is not available as a child or student account, nor can you use it as a current, overdraft or other bank account. Halifax Monthly Saver account holders must pay a regular monthly amount into their account by standing order and continuing to pay for the annual bonus. Payments up to £10 or more will qualify a Halifax Monthly Saver account at any branch of Halifax or by direct debit. Competition closing date 31 May 1998. Full rules and terms available on request from any Halifax branch. Full information and a copy of the account conditions are available from Halifax plc, Registered office: Trinity Road, Halesowen, West Midlands B63 3SD. Registered in England No. 2367076.

Raising the Ulster stakes

Ahern demands polls on border

John Mullin
Ireland Correspondent

THE Irish prime minister, Bertie Ahern, yesterday upped the stakes as negotiations on Northern Ireland's future headed towards a climax when he called for five-yearly polls on the existence of the north-south border.

Unionists called the plan "ridiculous" and the British government denied that it was backing the proposals. The scheme was said to have been devised to entice Sinn Féin to sign up next week to a deal falling short of its demands.

Mr Ahern, after addressing the British-Irish inter-governmental conference in Co. Cavan, told reporters that he thought that regular referendums would be built into a settlement. He made it clear he saw that as a way of achieving a united Ireland through consent.

His hope was that the success of a political settlement and the strong cross-border bodies, which he is demanding form part of that deal, would eventually persuade reluctant voters to back a united Ireland. The principle of consent had to be built into any deal.

Mr Ahern said: "I am a nationalist. I ultimately want to see a united Ireland. I want to see this settlement working and being effective and leading ultimately to people making that decision."

Re. Empey, one of the Ulster Unionist key negotiators at Stormont, said: "I thought we were going for an agreement here which would



George Mitchell... will present deal outline on Friday

lead to stability in this province. The idea is about one of the worst I have heard. It is absolutely out of the question.

"We are going for an agreement here. The Taoiseach realises his own party members are realising that there is going to be change, and I think he is reacting to instability within his own ranks. He seems to be trying to calm down his own supporters."

Mr Ahern concedes that articles two and three of the Irish constitution, which lay territorial claim to Northern Ireland, must be altered as part of an overall deal. It is a painful admission for a leader of Fianna Fáil.

The last border poll was in Northern Ireland in 1973. It was boycotted by the nationalist community, and so overwhelmingly endorsed partition.

Mr Ahern's address to the 50 politicians making up the body, which meets twice a year, included a plea for Ulster Unionists to begin making concessions. He said nationalists had given ground on constitutional change and a Northern Ireland assembly. It was now time for the Unionists to deal on north-south institutions.

He wants strong north-south bodies with executive powers. Unionists want to avoid them both, although some of their concerns could be addressed by fudging the wording of a deal.

George Mitchell, talks chairman, told the parties negotiating at Stormont that he would present them with his best-guess of what an agreement might look like on Friday. He wants them to negotiate up to the April 9 deadline.

'I ultimately want to see a united Ireland. I want to see this settlement working and being effective and leading ultimately to people making that decision'

Bertie Ahern



Bertie Ahern... 'Referendum will be built into settlement to achieve united Ireland through consent' PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID GADD

Cereal advert links fatness to bullying

Rory Carroll

KELLOGG'S is under fire for running an advert which suggests fat children can escape bullying and lose weight by eating its cereals.

It peddled a myth and sought commercial gain by switching blame from the bully to the victim, said child care experts. The advert, which features a worried-looking chubby schoolboy above text praising low fat cereals, could encourage bullying by stigmatising obesity.

The Advertising Standards Authority is considering two complaints and will decide next week whether Kellogg's should withdraw the advert, which appeared in several magazines, including TV Times, Chat, Bella, Best and Woman's Own.

Kellogg's was embroiled in a row last month over a campaign which suggested anorexia could be cured with a bowl of cereal.

Peter Smith, a psychologist who has researched bullying for nine years, said there was no truth to the advert's central claim, that "one of the most common causes of bullying in schools is being fat".

Professor Smith said: "That's quite unjustified. I don't know any evidence that would verify that. They [victims] are more likely to be

Poster by gun control lobby tops advert complaints, followed by Lee jeans' stiletto boot on male buttock

AN ADVERT by anti-gun campaigners provoked the most complaints last year to the Advertising Standards Authority, writes Luke Harding.

Posters calling for a ban on .22 calibre handguns, featuring an empty grave and spade, and conceived by the Seatchi and Seatchi agency, drew 94 complaints.

The copy on the posters suggested that 22 bullets made the same size holes as those from a Magnum or .357 calibre gun. This claim was the Gun Control Network was contested by shooting enthusiasts, but the authority rejected their complaints.

The second most offensive advert last year was a poster for the jeans company Lee. Some 89 people complained at a model placing an ultra-thin stiletto heel on a prostrate male's

children who are timid and unassertive, or some kinds of special needs, but not overweight.

"In fact this advertisement could make them targets by stigmatising them," Barbara Maines, an educational psychologist, said the

buttock. The advertiser successfully argued that the women's toe was "resting gently" on the man and could not cause offence.

Chris Reed, spokesman for the authority, said: "This year has seen a particular response from pressure groups, probably because a lot of the topics advertised were very high profile."

"In 1996 only one advert, for the tobacco company Philip Morris, drew a similar response."

There were 65 complaints last year about Vegetarian Society adverts that blamed meat-eating for cancer. They showed operation scars labelled "stomach cancer, colon cancer... breast cancer" under the headline "It's much easier to cut out meat". Complainers found the ads "shocking, offensive and unduly

distressing". Other posters which attracted complaints included French Connection's "freak advertising" campaign, and Peugeot's use of a female midriff with a tattoo of the 105 car on it.

Overall, complaints fell for the second consecutive year, by 11 per cent. Out of a total of 3,324 protests, 510 related to 10 adverts. Only four were found to have broken the authority's code.

Poster complaints were also down 57 per cent.

Mr Reed said: "We think it's an indication generally of how mindful owners of poster sites are being about standards."

From June, advertisers will have to submit posters to the authority for pre-clearance for a period of two years, if any complaints against them have been upheld.



Detail from a Kellogg's ad which features a worried-looking chubby schoolboy above text praising low fat cereals

Nursing 'needs to be all-graduate'

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

NURSING should become an all-graduate profession within 10 years, the universities responsible for nurse training will today argue in a report to the Government.

The NHS will otherwise find it increasingly difficult to attract young people into nursing as other disciplines move towards graduate status, warns the Council of Deans and Heads of UK University Faculties for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting.

The call comes as many NHS trusts report difficulties recruiting enough qualified nurses. In an attempt to broaden the net, the Department of Health has recently raised from 25 to 30 the upper limit of the target age group for its campaign to attract trainees.

Training has since last year been based in universities, but remains founded largely on a three-year diploma programme. Fewer than one in 10 nurses is a graduate.

The council of deans, which represents 64 university nursing departments, says the capacity of the diploma to attract students is diminishing. Fears that graduate nurses are a poor investment have been proved wrong.

"Nurses who graduate from degree programmes are more likely to stay longer in clinical practice and often choose

areas of need such as community nursing and care of elderly people," the council's report states.

Tony Butterworth, chairman of the council and dean of nursing at Manchester university, said yesterday that nursing was in an increasingly tight labour market. "It has to be competitive and attractive for what predominantly are young women wanting to make a career."

The council's proposal, one of 18 "position statements" in a report on nurse training as a whole, is likely to trigger impassioned debate over the nature of nursing.

The Royal College of Nursing, which represents registered nurses and trainees, welcomed the move. It said in a statement: "Nursing education should be at the same level as that of other health care professionals if patients are to benefit from multi-disciplinary learning."

However, Unison, the health workers' union which represents registered nurses and health care assistants, said it would be against any bar to non-graduates. Paul Chapman, Unison's professional officer for nursing, said the profession risked having its agenda dictated by an elite minority.

The council of deans says it would envisage a broad "entry gate" to an all-graduate profession, admitting not only under-graduates but others able to convert diplomas into degrees, possibly through "lifelong learning" contracts.

BROADCASTING STANDARDS COMMISSION

Complaint by The Register of Chinese Herbal Medicine (RCHM) - Summary of adjudication.

The Broadcasting Standards Commission has upheld in part a complaint about an edition of *Food and Drink* broadcast on BBC2 on 18 February 1997. The programme reported on the advice available to would-be slimmers from practitioners of Chinese herbal medicine in the United Kingdom. The RCHM complained that it had suffered unjust or unfair treatment in that the BBC had brought forward the date of broadcast of the programme and had refused to read out a statement of reply from the Register. They also complained that the programme had misrepresented the RCHM and Chinese herbal medicine in general.

The Commission accepts that there was no secret agenda on behalf of the BBC concerning the date of broadcast of the programme or any unfairness in the way in which the Register's statement was summarised. Further, the Commission also accepts that the BBC never intended to attack or undermine Chinese herbal medicine.

However, it finds that, as a result of focusing so narrowly on whether or not the herbal treatments prescribed to *Food and Drink*'s researcher were for weight loss, without consideration of the wider context of Chinese medicine, the programme makers did not convey the overall context in which the advice was given. In particular, viewers were not informed that the examinations and herbal treatments that the BBC's researcher received were conducted in the context of holistic medicine and that the dietary advice was not for weight loss alone. To that extent the Commission finds the programme was unfair.

Accordingly, the complaint is upheld in part.

You may obtain a copy of the full adjudication by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the Broadcasting Standards Commission, 7 The Sanctuary, London SW1P 3JS.

Reader's Digest seeks new look

But it will not be campaigning to legalise cannabis, says editor

Kamran Ahmed
Media Correspondent

IT CONJURES up images of grandmothers knitting in rocking chairs and stories long on swooning heroines and square-jawed heroes. But as Britain approaches the millennium, even Reader's Digest has decided that it is time to face the future.

In a change which owners hope will not put off its core readership, politely described as "conservative", the world's largest-selling magazine is to aim for a younger, more streetwise audience.

Out go the front page contents list, promising everything from My Four-Legged

Partner (on pets) to Points to Ponder (useful moral tips), and in come racy articles with titles such as Terror at the Door (on armed burglars) and How to Raise Drug-Free Children.

"The trouble is that most people have this image of the Reader's Digest which does not square with the type of magazine it actually is," said Russell Twisk, editor in chief of the UK edition.

"We are not changing our essential values, but we hope that the redesign will encourage new readers to try us. We certainly won't be calling for legalisation of cannabis or anything like that."

The new image is punched home with a section called

Personal Glimpses, on the rich, the famous, and the sexy. The section includes articles on super-model Christy Turlington, former Chelsea manager Rudi Gullit, and Minnie Driver, star of *Good Will Hunting*.

The magazine, which relaunches at the end of April, has been struggling against declining circulation for a number of years as the magazine market becomes more and more crowded. Five years ago its circulation stood at 1.8 million a month, compared with 1.5 million now.

Internal projections say the figure could fall to 1.2 million within a few years.

The magazine, the second biggest-selling in Britain behind the TV listings magazine *What's On TV*, is as well known for its prize draw as it is for its contents. But publishing sources say that the

impact of brown envelopes on the door mat, promising a chance to win riches galore, has waned with the launch of the National Lottery.

One senior executive closely involved with the magazine said: "It is a conservative organisation and now they have a man aged 68 in charge." He was referring to George Grune, former chairman of the company in the US, who was brought back to run the company after it faced a financial crisis last year.

The company saw its Wall Street share price fall from \$46 (£32) five years ago to \$25 (£16.50) now, after investors lost faith with a company attempting rapid expansion into new video and book markets.

"Mr Grune will bring back the vigour and ideas which made this company so successful," Mr Twisk said.

Head teacher takes part-time job to help pay off school's debts

Vivek Chaudhary
Education Correspondent

AHEAD TEACHER has been working evenings and holidays to help pay off his school's debt.

Roger Brown, head of Wrenthorpe primary school near Wakefield, has been officially moonlighting as a school inspector to pay off the £42,000 budget deficit his school is facing.

So far he has paid £23,000 of the debt after working through his holidays and taking time off the school timetable to work.

Other teachers at the school have also taken part-time jobs and have made up the deficit. But Mr Brown, who has not had a day off for more than a year, claims that another deficit of £17,000 is forecast for the school for the forthcoming financial year.

Mr Brown, aged 48, who has been a teacher since 1970 said: "We do desperately need a new school building but I never dreamed I would be in this situation when I started. All teachers are working very hard in circumstances

which often are difficult." The biggest problem facing the school is its building, which suffers from damp, leaky roofs and damaged floors. It was built in 1878.

Mr Brown said they are hoping to get £1 million from the Government's New Deal for Schools to help ease the crisis.

He claims he would not be able to moonlight for another year. The strain of it was beginning to tell on his wife Linda.

Mr Brown said: "She is a teacher in another school and so appreciates what I have to do, although she does not particularly like it. She would be very unhappy if I had to do it next year because she recognises the strain."

Wakefield local education authority said securing capital funding for the school had so far been unsuccessful, but a bid under the New Deal for Schools scheme had been submitted.

The authority was also considering using the Government's Private Finance Initiative where the private sector helps pay for and upkeep schools.

Government task force calls for local action to end discrimination against black and Asian players

Racist soccer teams face ban

John Duncan
Sports Correspondent

RACIST teams will be banned from council pitches under proposals presented to the Sports Minister, Tony Banks, by the Football Task Force yesterday.

The report, one of a series commissioned by the Government last July, found disturbing evidence that while racism at professional levels has diminished in recent years, the problem remains deep rooted at local level.

The Football Task Force has heard evidence from supporters, players, administra-

tors and officials since it was set up under the chairmanship of David Mellor in July 1997 and will produce a report on topics including commercialism, disabled access, ticketing and merchandising.

"The threat of racism is a powerful deterrent to black and Asian people and particularly young people playing organised football," says the latest report, unveiled yesterday at Lancaster Gate. "It can have a detrimental effect on a player's performance and persuade some to give up the game altogether."

Insiders say that task force members were shocked by evidence they heard in Leicester about the scale of

racist abuse at park level, ranging from verbal abuse by players to violent attacks.

"The clubs concerned told the task force of hostile behaviour of a racist character directed towards young players from opposing players, parents on the sidelines and in one case the referee," says the report. "Formal complaints had been made to the relevant county football associations but no action had been taken against the clubs or the individuals concerned."

Leicester city council offers a good example of the problem faced by those trying to eliminate racism at local level. While the council organises one of the best ethnic

soccer programmes in the country, the Leicester Asian Sports Initiative, the parks department says that it is unaware that there has ever been a problem of racism on its pitches and has not had any reports of incidents in the past two years, a statistic that does not accord with the experience of local black and Asian footballers.

The task force recommendation is based on the Home Office initiative which brought together clubs, leagues and county FAs to sign anti-racist declarations which appear at all council pitches.

Officers have taken an active interest in racism on council pitches and, say locals, this has helped encour-

age more black youth into the game at park level. Similar schemes are now being operated in Liverpool, Sheffield, Watford, and Lewisham and Greenwich in south London.

The report also urges referees to adopt a "zero tolerance" approach to racist behaviour, making racist abuse an automatic sending-off offence. The FA was asked to ensure that there was some black representation at higher administrative levels — there are no members of the FA Council, the governing body in England. Many black footballers complain that county FAs are similarly unrepresentative.

The Government immediately accepted the task force

proposal to end the "non-sense" that police are able to act against racist chanting by more than one person but abuse by an individual is not specifically illegal.

The Home Secretary, Jack Straw, said the law would be changed "at the earliest possible opportunity".

"The report has come at the right time," said Robbie Earle, the Wimbledon footballer. "Racism is still a serious problem and there is no place for it in the modern game. A lot of time and effort has gone into this far-reaching report which hopefully will set the standards for players and supporters."

Leader comment, page 3

'They shout names and throw stones as you walk on to the pitch'

John Duncan on
team violence

Nirvana players after a training session... problems remain but things have improved since the team was attacked with knives

PHOTOGRAPH MARTIN GOODMAN

HOWEVER bad things get, however much they are abused, have their minibus tyres slashed on white council estates, have stones thrown at them as they warm up, for Nirvana FC it has never got as bad as it did one afternoon in 1988 when the side, then called Red Star, went to the Leicestershire village of Lutterworth.

"We were playing a game in a public park with a pub on one side," said Rashpal Singh, who has been involved in some form with Asian football teams since 1977 when he was a student. "At that time pubs chucked out at half past three and suddenly people came out with knives and pickaxes to attack us."

The police were called and four of the white attackers were charged with public order offences. The Leicester City League, which contained only three predominantly Asian teams out of 70, threw Mr Singh and his team out of the league.

"They said it was a cumulative effect. They said we had had problems before and so because you have 15 white teams in the division

and you're the ones causing trouble we're going to protect our league by kicking out the black team. That way they'd have no problems. Things are slightly better now. The team had to change their name to Nirvana FC but they have to take a trip down memory lane too often for comfort. "It's better the longer you are in a division or a league

'Referees turn a blind eye to racism and, if you complain, threaten to book you'

because teams know you and they know that they have to come to your place. "And more people are aware from other contexts that it isn't acceptable. But sometimes, particularly in the cup when you aren't likely to meet these teams again soon, a whole village will come out because they've never seen so many black faces together at one time. They shout names and throw stones as you walk out on to the pitch. That's the sort of thing you have to put up with."

say their complaints are sometimes heard by the very people responsible for causing problems.

Referees can be a problem too. Nirvana claims that black teams are subject to more bookings and sendings off than white teams and that racist abuse is often ignored. "Normally referees don't make any comments themselves," said Mr Singh, "but they turn a blind eye to racist comments and then if you complain they say 'shut up player or I'll book you'."

But it is the double standards of the leagues that most frustrate them and the trouble they get when they go to play on pitches owned by a council such as Leicester with anti-discrimination policies that are apparently unenforceable when it comes to who uses their football pitches.

"Now in the league we play in there are very few pitches on council estates so it isn't the problem it was," said Mr Singh. "But the league won't sanction the use of pitches where we come from. There are a couple of parks in the centre of a black area and the league have never allowed anyone to play there because all the white teams said we're not going there. But we have to go to predominantly white areas."

The task force's recommendations will at least give Nirvana FC a basis on which to complain to what local authority about what goes on on land they own. And it may help put pressure on racist clubs to clean up their act or clear off. And any step on the road away from Lutterworth is better than standing still.

Police hold man extra 36 hours over death of 'known' fan

Luke Harding

DETECTIVES in Kent last night continued to question a man in connection with the murder over the weekend of Fulham football fan Matthew Fox.

Officers were given permission by magistrates to detain the local man — who has not been named — for an extra 36 hours. Two other men have been released on police bail.

Mr Fox, aged 24, died in fighting outside Gillingham Football Club on Saturday afternoon following the home side's 2-0 victory over Fulham. He was punched in the head and fell to the ground.

Fulham's owner, Mohamed Al Fayed, yesterday provided black limousines to take Matthew's family and friends to the team's Craven Cottage ground in west London.

Mr Al Fayed said: "Our thoughts are with Matthew's family, and needless to say Fulham Football Club will do everything it can to comfort the family during this distressing time."

In a statement read by the club chaplain Gary Piper, his family said: "Matthew loved all sports, but his main passion was his love for Fulham and his beloved 'Hammer-smith Road'."

"He was only 24 and was due to celebrate his birthday

today. How we are going to get through that day, and the following days and years, without his wonderful presence we don't know."

Fulham's director of football, Kevin Keegan, made a separate statement offering the Fox family every support to help them through their grief. "This is an appalling tragedy and a pointless loss of a young life," he said.

Matthew's parents left the stadium shortly after 2.30pm and stood in front of the many floral tributes already left at the gates to the ground. They were accompanied by a dozen of Matthew's friends.

His friend Gary Billing said yesterday he had had "three

or four pints" with Matthew before Saturday's match but said they had not been drunk.

"He never went looking for trouble but would not walk away if it came to him," he said.

Mr Fox, who lived with his parents in Purley, Surrey, had been a season ticket holder at Fulham. He had supported them at both home and away games for many years, the family added.

Police sources said last night that the dead Fulham fan "was known" to the national police intelligence unit monitoring hooligans.

Kent Police set up a hotline for anyone with information on 01622 654850.

Bereft of the gigantic moral stature of Hugo Gryn, it seems as if British Jewry has been buffeted rudderless ever since. The row which reaches its final denouement in April has now festered unhappily for more than 18 months: who should replace Gryn as senior rabbi at the West London Synagogue? Madeleine Bunting on the battle for the soul of British Jewry

G2 cover story

Police 'not interested in finding race murderers'

David Pallister

NEVILLE Lawrence was shown the deep knife wounds on his son's body lying in the mortuary and thought: "What butchers could have done something like this to a human being?"

He was still numb with shock at the racist murder of his teenage son two days before.

In a statement yesterday to the inquiry into the murder of Stephen Lawrence, he described how he soon began to lose confidence in the police investigation. "It was clear to me from the outset that the police had no real interest in catching Stephen's murderers," he said.

Within days of the murder in April 1993, Mr Lawrence said a woman came to the family house in Woolwich, south London, with the names of four white suspects. "She said there had been people in her house on the night of the murder who had washed blood off themselves." She identified them as Jamie and Neil Acourt, David Norris and Luke Knight.

They, along with Gary Dobson, were later charged with the murder but never convicted.

Mr Lawrence said the names were handed to the police by their solicitor, Imran Khan. Repeating the story given by his wife, Doreen, last week, Mr Lawrence said she had given the names to a senior policeman on a piece of paper.

He then proceeded to fold this paper up in his hand like a ball as if he were going to throw it away.

"All the suggestions that we made about trying to get these people quickly were public as if we were trying to interfere."

On the night of the murder Mr Lawrence said a neighbour came to the house to say that Stephen had been attacked not far away in Eltham by about six white youths.

He and Doreen set off to find him and ended up at the local hospital where they found Stephen's friend Duwayne Brooks in an agitated state.

Within the hour a doctor

and a nurse told him Stephen was dead. "It still did not hit me. When they said Stephen was dead Duwayne went wild. I just sat there numb."

"Nobody actually told us what had happened to Stephen. Nobody. None of the policemen at the hospital spoke to us."

Two police officers assigned as liaison officers rapidly alienated the family. One of them made a remark about Stephen's woolen gloves and a hat.

"It was clear to me she was implying that Stephen was a cat burglar. I was very upset that she was implying that Stephen was a criminal."

Increasingly frustrated by the lack of progress and dearth of information, the Lawrences were introduced to Nelson Mandela at a central London hotel. He listened attentively.

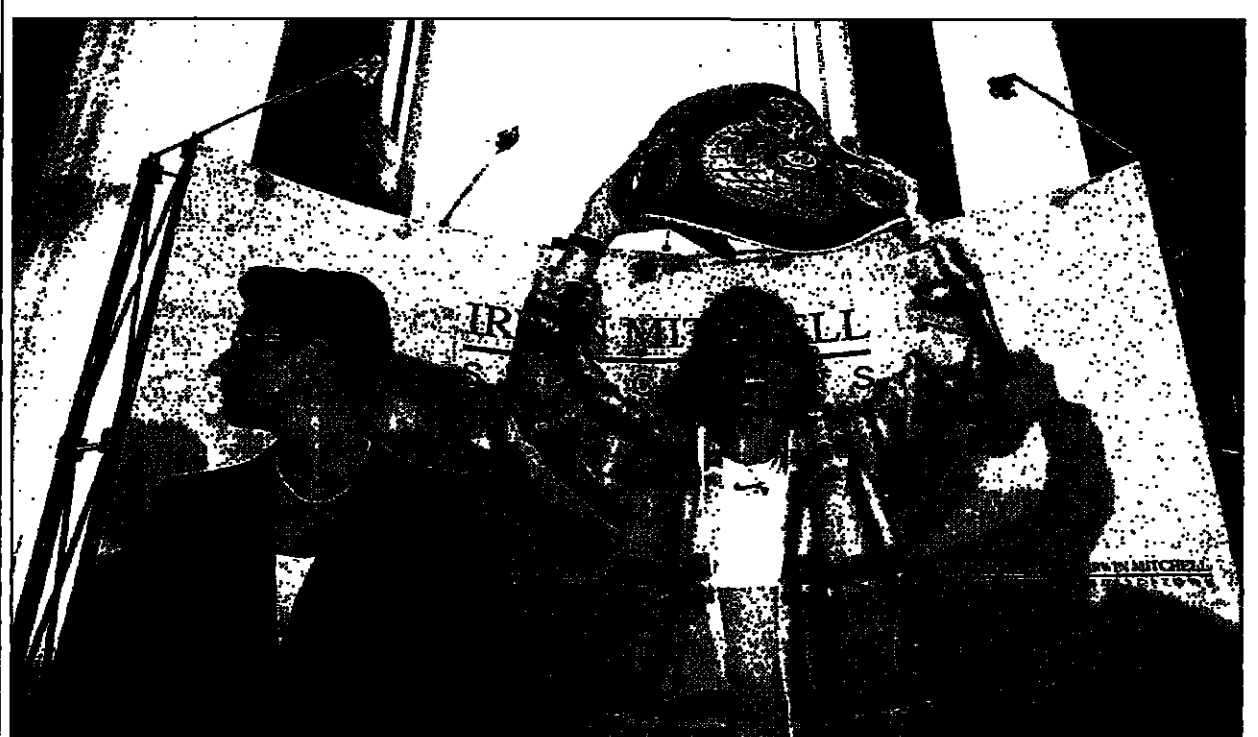
'What butchers could have done something like this to a human being?'

"The media and everyone was there... and the following morning all of a sudden these guys were arrested. That suggested to me that the Government of this country did not care about me and my family unless the media was present or our outcry came from certain sections of the community or someone as powerful as Mandela. That was a bad thing."

"It showed me that all along the police knew who the people were but were not prepared to take any action unless somebody of some kind of substance said something in public that would be noticed by the world."

After Stephen was buried in Jamaica, the Lawrences returned to England to learn that the charges had been dropped. It was, he said, a devastating blow. "At least they could have waited until we had come back and try to explain to us the situation before they did it. I think we stopped going to see the police then."

The inquiry continues today.



It's a knockout... Jane Couch (right) and her solicitor, Sara Leslie, after her tribunal win

PHOTOGRAPH GRAHAM TURNER

Woman boxer wins fight against board

John Duncan on world champion's
successful sex discrimination claim

JANE Couch, the women's world welterweight champion boxer, was "grossly badly treated" when she was refused a licence to box in Britain, an industrial tribunal ruled yesterday.

Ms Couch, aged 29, is expected to seek six-figure damages from the British Boxing Board of Control for sex discrimination.

In a condemnation of the board, the tribunal said there was "incontrovertible" evidence she had not been treated as a man would have been, when her

application was rejected on medical grounds last year. Her case was discussed for only 20 minutes, and no medical examination was requested.

The tribunal decided the board's main concern had been that, if a woman were to be hurt in the ring, it would make calls for a ban on all boxing irresistible.

There had been astonishment last month at a hearing of the tribunal in Croydon, south London, when the board said one reason for its refusal to licence female boxers was that women were too unstable

during menstruation to be allowed to box.

Ms Couch, known as the Fleetwood Assassin, regularly boxes abroad; later this month she will defend her title, won in 1996, in Atlantic City, where she is licensed, in the United States. Yesterday she sent off a new application to the board, which will meet with legal and medical experts over the next few days to discuss the tribunal's ruling, which also said that the board must reconsider the application, and this time treat it fairly.

"Now there is no reason for them to reject me," said Ms Couch yesterday.

"When you are a training athlete, it is an insult to any woman to be called unstable because you have periods. I do what I do, and I do it well. I was very shocked with the defence used in the tribunal and what the board had to say."

"Women have now got a standard to aim for. Women want to box as professionals just like the men do."

The board was given 42 days to reach agreement on compensation, otherwise the tribunal would be reconvened.

Sara Leslie, solicitor for Ms Couch, said that she would be seeking the maxi-

mum amount allowed for hurt feeling, £20,000. "I would expect the tribunal to take into account the manner in which the board chose to mount its defence," she said.

Ms Couch will also press for compensation for loss of earnings while denied a licence — anything she could have earned in Britain since June 1997 when the application was rejected, possibly more than £100,000.

Ironically, media interest in the tribunal proceedings has increased Ms Couch's value as a boxer.

She is negotiating with promoters to appear in a supporting bout at Oscar De La Hoya's WBC welterweight champion title defence in May, one of this year's biggest American fight dates.

Kamlesh Bahl, chairwoman of the Equal Opportunities Commission, welcomed the tribunal decision. "Jane Couch has proved her boxing talent and ability but has been denied the opportunity of earning her living in this country simply on the grounds of her sex. Ms Couch was a clear victim of outdated attitudes. We hope Ms Couch will now be allowed to pursue her chosen career without further hindrance."

A close look at the lively debate under way in the country's press, as writers demand tolerance and more reforms

Media spins a new image for Islam

It is axiomatic, here, that President Khatami is only at the beginning of his road. His "civil society" will materialise only after complete victory in the power struggle pitting him and the "modernists" against the traditionalist clergy.

His immense popularity stems not merely from what he has done to change people's lives — in a strictly material sense very little — but from the great things expected of him.

Nothing conveys the new atmosphere of hope, purpose and excitement, unique in the Middle East, as well as the Tehran press.

It now enjoys liberties surpassed only during the brief, bloody and turbulent period between the Shah's downfall in 1979 and the consolidation of the Khomeinist new order in 1981-82. Those liberties are not complete, but they are expanding almost daily.

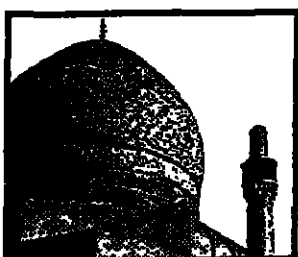
The most typical newcomer is Jame'eh, or "Society", which has already won a circulation of more than 100,000 since it was launched last month. No one has a more impressive Khomeinist record than the "religious intellectuals" who run the publication.

Its publisher, Mohsen Sazegara, was with the great man in his last days of exile. Returning in triumph with him, he drew up the statutes of the Revolutionary Guards, became the head of radio and, at 28, deputy minister of heavy industry.

Jame'eh's managing director, Reza Jalalpour, was just 22 when he became governor of Mahabad, capital of the then rebellious province of Kurdistan. "We have matured," said Jalalpour. "We believe in gradualism, evolution, pluralism, tolerance, dialogue, we are reformists, not revolutionaries." The conversion is complete and frankly admitted, but in his view, natural and logical enough.

For there were always two sides to Khomeini and his Islamic government, or at least, in retrospect, two broad interpretations of them. The "sacred" side — theocratic, dogmatic, rigidly jurisprudential — is upheld by the traditionalist clerics, and embodied in all those institutions he imposed, a sort of Islamic "superstructure", on the secular system the Shah left behind. They seek to "Islamicise" society in every possible way, a process, imposed from above, that in theory continues to this day.

Khomeini's other side was populist, dynamic, innovative. It convinced the ayatollah, in his last year, that, in the interests of such essentially secular concerns as efficiency, social justice and the management of a modern, capitalist state, the supreme business of Islamic government had to be to govern, even if that required the suspension or modification of the Sharia, the holy law, itself. To this side the religious intel-



David Hirst in Iran

lectuals deem themselves heir.

The essence of their position is that there is no timeless, immutable interpretation of the Koran, the prophetic sayings and the Sharia, still less any monopoly of interpretation by a professional caste, or God-given right of this caste to impose it in both temporal and spiritual spheres.

They want to preserve a connection between Islam and politics. But in practice, secular, not religious, imperatives drive them, and the course on which they are embarked paves the way for the opposite of what the clergy wants — not more Islamicisation, but less and less.

They may keep the debate in religious terms: Khatami, invoking the Golden Age of Islam, may cite the Prophet's rule over Medina, the first Islamic polity, as the ideal of an Islamic civil society. But, for the religious intellectuals, civil society can be only ideologically neutral. "It is neither anti-Islamic, nor anti-secular," said Jalalpour. "Freedom of choice comes before religion."

"Besides, we don't believe religion offers a programme for society. We want an institutional separation of church and state, so that at the end of the day if our state is Islamic it will be so not through the Sharia, the lowest part of Islam, but through ethics, and our rulers' moral standards. Ninety-nine per cent of it will resemble any other democratic state in the world."

REJOINING the world, becoming "normal" once again — that is a fundamental impulse of the civil society theorists. In that, they are merely the philosophical counterparts of less lettered folk whose resistance to archaic Islamic social codes takes the form of watching American soap operas via forbidden satellite dishes, wearing very short mini-skirts beneath their chadors, or — like the youngsters on my plane out of Tehran — gleefully donning ties as soon as they are airborne.

In Jame'eh, religious intellectuals and secular ones — it's a sign of the times that it's already a forum for both — lay siege to what they see as the arrogant, ignorant "cultural relativism" by which the Islamic Republic justifies the differences between its



Young women in a Tehran street (left) stray from the colour black as the strict Islamic dress code (above) is gradually relaxed. The popular push for a more secular, liberal society is gaining momentum

Many Iranians watch American soap operas via forbidden satellite dishes, wear mini-skirts beneath their chadors, or — like the youngsters on my plane out of Tehran — gleefully don ties as soon as they are airborne

"divine-political" system and the inferior, man-made ones under which the rest of humanity labours. By signing a UN convention, said one, Iran accepted that to give a girl under 18 in marriage, or without her consent, is slavery, but "with deep regret we find that, in Iran, the marriage age for girls is nine and 15 for boys. Why should we get upset if the UN warns us that we are acting against human rights?"

And what sort of Islam is it that can justify 100 lashes for fornication between a Muslim

man and Muslim woman, but death for the man if he is a non-Muslim? This is no mere theoretical contingency. A German businessman is under sentence of death for adultery with an Iranian woman. The Chief of the Judiciary, Ayatollah Yazdi, says if he can prove he was a Muslim before the act he will escape his otherwise just desserts.

The press is no longer afraid to enlarge its attacks on such obvious barbarisms into a general critique of the feasibility of reconciling

Islam with a modern state. Only, say the religious intellectuals, if the Islamic Republic is reformed from within, its modern and "popular" aspects strengthened against its traditional and "sacred" ones, can Islam, as a political force, survive at all. Ideally, some contend, the Velayate Fakih — the Guardianship of the Religious Jurisprudent — and the whole Islamic superstructure it heads, should just "with away".

Meanwhile, to help that along, all its representatives

should be elected like those on the popular side, not appointed as they are now. This is anathema to the traditionalists, who denounce any criticism of the Velayate Fakih, be it the office or its incumbent. Ali Khamenei, as an assault on Islam itself, they still control the physical instruments of power — army, Revolutionary Guards, intelligence, judiciary — and, since Khatami's election, they are trying, by constitutional subterfuge, to win control of the police, too.

Khamenei now has even

greater formal powers than Khomeini had. Some would make them greater still, or even abolish the Republic altogether, putting in its place a so-called "Government of Islamic Justice", with God, and God alone, as its source of authority. Islamic government, argues one Ayatollah Lankarani, cannot be tyrannical, precisely because it is Islamic. Its purpose is "not to shift command from one person to another", and its scope is "so wide that it can interfere in everything from the saying of prayers to the crossing of red

lights". "We fear," said a Khatami official, "that, in [the traditionalists'] isolation, they might grow even more extreme, and do something stupid." But any such adventurism would dangerously, perhaps fatally, exacerbate the impatience of all those who are now ready for more vigorous forms of opposition. Students were among the first to challenge and shake the seemingly impenetrable despotism of the Shah; it is students who are stirring again today.

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'Angel' revives right-to-die controversy

Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

THE "angel of death" case in California, in which a hospital therapist allegedly confessed to killing up to 50 elderly patients, has raised again the controversy about artificially prolonging life.

Efren Saldívar, aged 28, a respiratory therapist at Glendale Adventist Hospital in the Los Angeles area, allegedly told police "about his anger at seeing patients kept alive as opposed to the guilt he would feel at the failure of providing life-saving care".

The same hospital was the subject of a 1994 court case on behalf of a 70-year-old terminally ill man, William Bartling. He was on a respirator but his repeated pleas to be disconnected were ignored. A court heard that when he removed the respirator himself, his hands were tied to the bed.

Although the first judge ruled in favour of the hospital, this was overturned by a higher court four months later, by which time Mr Bartling had died.

He had been suffering from four fatal illnesses and had signed a "living will" asking not to be resuscitated. After the final verdict his lawyer said: "He went through a four-month death sentence."

After Mr Saldívar's "confession" was disclosed at the weekend, the hospital has revealed that all its 44 respiratory therapists have been suspended and are being interviewed individually by

police to see if they were involved in the deaths. Three are under suspicion of giving Mr Saldívar the room numbers of terminally ill patients.

The therapists, who monitor and assist patients coming out of surgery, are regarded as front-line workers who see the worst cases. "You see suffering, people with bed sores, gaping wounds from staph bacteria, or they blow up like dough with severe infections — and there is nothing you can do. The frustration builds up over many years," said therapist Greg Basile who works at another hospital.

Mr Saldívar allegedly told the police that he had three rules governing which patients he terminated: they had to be unconscious, had to have given prior orders not to be resuscitated in a crisis, and had to show signs that they were dying. When asked if he considered himself "an angel of death," he replied "yes", police said.

The charge that doctors in America keep patients alive beyond any reasonable hope of recovery has simmered during the long debate over doctor-assisted suicide, or "death with dignity". The state of Oregon is now the only place in the world where this is legally permissible. The death of the first patient, a woman in her eighties, was announced last week.

Mr Saldívar may never be charged with murder. Confessions alone are insufficient evidence and pathologists say that even with exhumations, the drugs he allegedly used may be untraceable.

Police 'liar' admits to hitting Biko

David Boreasford in Cape Town

THE anti-apartheid activist Steve Biko was beaten with a hose-pipe then left naked, manacled to a security gate in a crucifix position, one of the policemen who took part in the assault testified yesterday.

"My observation was that Mr Biko was arrogant, aggressive and he didn't answer questions at all," said Gideon Nieuwoudt, a former security policeman, describing to South Africa's truth commission the last hours of the black consciousness leader.

Mr Nieuwoudt is the fifth police officer to testify to the commission in support of an amnesty for the death of Biko, who was killed in police custody 20 years ago. His application has been separated from those of the other policemen because he was found to have lied in



Biko: Chained to a gate 'to break down his resistance'

another amnesty hearing. He told the commission that Biko had been taken in for questioning in connection with the distribution of a pamphlet calling for the murder of informers and collaborators. During questioning Biko tried to punch one of the officers.

"Blows were aimed backwards and forwards. I hit him with a hose pipe to dis-

tract him," said Mr Nieuwoudt. Biko's head then hit a wall. "He seemed almost like a boxer who had been knocked out. He seemed very dazed and confused."

He chained the 30-year-old Biko to a gate "to break down his resistance". Biko was slurring his words at this stage. Six hours later Mr Nieuwoudt noticed Biko

had wet himself and unchained his arms, leaving him on a mat in the cell. He was finally examined by a doctor 24 hours after the assault.

"If he had been given immediate medical attention, Mr Biko might have been alive today," Mr Nieuwoudt said. Instead, he was driven, unconscious, in the back of a police van 700 miles from Port Elizabeth to a prison in Pretoria, where he died.

Bishop Desmond Tutu has received affidavits from two neurologists expressing doubt whether former president F. W. Botha is fit to stand trial for refusing to testify to the commission. Their judgement is based on brain damage he suffered when he had a stroke in 1989.

The bishop said in a statement yesterday that the affidavits had been referred to the attorney-general for a decision. The trial is due to start on April 14.

Tobacco firms to pay more to settle suits

Martin Kettle in Washington

AFTER months of wrangling between politicians, lawyers and the tobacco industry, the United States Senate is expected to begin debate tomorrow on a long-awaited bill which will cut cigarette manufacturers at least \$138 billion (\$24 billion) more than the provisional settlement package agreed last year.

Some crucial aspects of the deal were still being negotiated yesterday. But the main financial outlines include an

increase of nearly 50 per cent in the amount to be paid by the tobacco industry to settle outstanding lawsuits against them in 40 states for smoking-related illnesses. Last June's provisional agreement put the figure to be paid by the manufacturers at \$368.5 billion. Under the proposed bill this will rise to \$506 billion, payable over 25 years.

The White House, which has pressed for a much tougher bill than envisaged in the 1997 settlement, yesterday called the draft "a positive step forward".

The new agreement will put up the price of a pack of ciga-

rettes by an extra \$1.10 (67p) by 2003. With other scheduled tobacco tax rises, this means the federal tax component will rise from 24 cents a pack to \$1.49 a pack in five years' time. In addition, states impose taxes ranging from 2.5 cents to 62.5 cents a pack.

The bill will also include new restrictions on tobacco advertising, a programme of public education to prevent under-age smoking and a compensation package for tobacco farmers. If under-age smoking falls to fall at the planned rate, further fines will be imposed. In return, the tobacco manufacturers

will get protection from future law suits.

The main unresolved aspect of the draft bill remains the exact form that this protection will take.

The 1997 provisional settlement envisaged an annual cap on the industry's legal payouts, for which companies would qualify by meeting under-age smoking reduction targets.

Conservative Republicans and Democrats from tobacco-producing southern states are believed to have won further concessions and to have agreed an annual payout cap of \$6.5 billion.

Jacqueline Delubac, boulevard star, has left an extraordinary art collection to her home town, writes **Paul Webster** in Lyon

Passion of flamboyant actress finds wider stage

THE life of Jacqueline Delubac, the frothy star of Sacha Guitry's boulevard comedies of the Thirties and Forties, ended with a theatrical flourish touched by Guitry-style irony.

Out shopping recently in Paris's fashion centre in the Rue du Faubourg Saint-Honore, she stepped out of one couturier, Hermès, to cross over to another, Lanvin, and was hit by a bicycle.

Her death, at the age of 90, was received with mixed feelings in Lyon, where she was born.

The accident ensured that the long-awaited Delubac legacy of 230 million of paintings arrived in time for the completion of an eight-year renovation programme at the south-eastern city's fine arts museum.

Delubac had been one of the most extravagant customers of French fashion houses for more than 60 years after a seven-year marriage with Guitry that ended in 1939. Later, as the mistress of the very rich, who married a

multi-millionaire when she was 74, her extravagant lifestyle as the supreme Parisienne was the staple diet of gossip columns.

A daily ride in a chauffeur-driven limousine to shop at Paris's haute couture salons, where her spending once subsidised the careers of Pierre Cardin and Yves Saint-Laurent, obscured her other passion: collecting artworks that decorated her private, red-lined gallery at her Quai d'Orsay mansion.

Some pictures and sculptures were auctioned this month in Paris to provide a pension for the masseuse who looked after her for 50 years. But 35 other paintings, by Bacon, Braque, Degas, Dubuffet, Léger, Manet, Picasso, Renoir and Rouault, among others, will be shown publicly for the first time when the renovated Lyon museum is opened on Friday by the culture minister, Catherine Trautmann.

The paintings would probably have gone to Delubac's Parisian neighbour, the Musée d'Orsay, if she had not quarrelled with curators over a



'She took a good look around and announced: "My impressionists will look fine here". Nothing was ever written down, and it was only four years ago that I was told that we could have all of her moderns as well.'

Picasso's 1937 *Femme Assise Sur La Plage* is part of Jacqueline Delubac's legacy to Lyon's Musée des Beaux-Arts

previous donation. And unlike Lyon, where the picture value covers most of the 240 million restoration, Paris museums did not want keep the collection together and

open galleries named after the actress.

The Lyon curator, Philippe Durrey, said she chose the placement herself during a visit 10 years ago before work

started on the former Benedictine monastery to create more exhibition space.

"She took a good look around and announced: 'My impressionists will look fine here'," he said. "Nothing was ever written down, and it was only four years ago that I was told that we could have all of her moderns as well."

The rush to see works such as Picasso's 1937 *Femme Assise Sur La Plage* and Bacon's 1969 *Study For A Bullfight No. 2* will take the edge off what was intended to be the real publicity coup for the reopening of France's best-endowed provincial museum. Paris's Pompidou Centre is lending about 100 works for a Matisse retrospective until June 28.

Welcome to Campus of Struggle

Andrew Higgins on the rising tide of Indonesian student unrest

ON A five-a-side football pitch commandeered as the headquarters of Indonesia's campus revolt, a huddle of student activists gathers around a television for a lesson on the tactics and terror of rebellion.

The screen flickers with images of a disaster they hope to avoid as they challenge the now geriatric New Order that has governed Indonesia for 32 years. It shows tanks rolling into Tiananmen Square.

The students in Tiananmen are our brothers and sisters. Their goal is no less ambitious than that of Chinese students silenced by the People's Liberation Army in Beijing in 1989 — the end of President Suharto's monopoly of power, a political and business cartel as tenaciously guarded as that of the Chinese Communist Party.

The trigger for their protests is economic, a crisis that has ravaged Indonesia's currency, raised the spectre of widespread hunger, turned a model of development into a wayward ward of the International Monetary Fund and left nearly every company on the Jakarta stock exchange technically bankrupt.

Their ultimate target, though, is the "old man," as Indonesians call the 76-year-old master of the New Order and father to six children enriched by business concerns ranging from clove cigarettes and cars to condoms.

Physically infirm but politically nimble, the former army quartermaster has just entered his seventh year in term after being "re-elected" earlier this month by a hand-picked assembly.

A month of protest and sporadic clashes with police has put Indonesia's students in the vanguard of a movement for political change. In a country of 202 million people scattered over 17,500 islands, their numbers are relatively small. But the ferment on campuses across the former Dutch colony could presage a wider campaign against the world's longest-serving ruler after Fidel Castro.

Prime always look to our youth. This is a basic fact of our national life. Our modern state comes from the students," said Hariman Siregar, a medical doctor who spent three years in jail for leading an abortive student movement in 1974. "We have never

had a change of government without the students. The students are a vital sign of our national life. If the students are protesting, the country is really in crisis."

Their past role as a detonator for change, including a bloody conviction that allowed General Suharto to oust Sukarno as president-for-life in 1967, makes students a potent force. Their fate, though, will depend not on their own strength but, as was the case in Beijing in 1989, on the military.

"The military has to make a decision: to crush the students or support them... They used the students to overthrow Sukarno. In 1974 they crushed us. Now they don't know. They are buying time," said Dr Hariman.

In the opaque world of Indonesian politics, where key actors move as obscurely as Javanese shadow puppets, senior generals are now manoeuvring for the trust of student leaders, though it remains unclear whether even to themselves whether their aim is to silence or exploit their anger.

A newly installed commander of the armed forces, General Wiranto, has described the students' demands — which range from calls for cheap rice to coded assaults on Gen Suharto — as "normal" and invited delegates from 17 universities to a meeting on April 4 to discuss their movement. At the same time, though, authorities

have cracked down firmly on all attempts to take protests off campus and into the streets to join forces with a swelling army of unemployed and impoverished, but so far unorganised, workers.

The jobless now number 27 million and the suffering will increase with the scrapping of price controls deemed hostile to the free market by the IMF.

"We realise that the most important factor is the army," said Mr Agus, the student leader. "What happened in China could happen here

too." Like Chinese students in 1989, protesters appeal to soldiers for support, holding banners calling on the "people's army" to stand on the side of the people. But the Tiananmen video, showing how China's own "people's army" responded, has delivered a sobering message. "In times of chaos and panic good intentions mean nothing," said Yudi Yudianto, a 23-year-old metallurgy student.

Until last week the University of Indonesia greeted visitors with a sign celebrating its role as a centre for the 1986 protests that helped

bring Gen Suharto to power. "Welcome to the Campus of the Struggle of the New Order." The sign was removed after a student used spray paint to produce an abbreviated message: "Welcome to the Campus of Struggle".

So long as such mockery is confined to campus grounds like a rubber ring," said Hariman, a researcher at the Indonesian Institute of Sciences. "It can be opened quite wide sometimes but the government can also close it very quickly if it becomes dangerous."

Dr Hariman knows from experience how quickly the treacherous winds of Indonesian politics can shift. During the 1974 protests he was invited to the presidential palace to discuss the students' demands with Gen Suharto. He was arrested five days later.

"I think in the end they will crush the students," Dr Hariman said. "The military has no guts against Suharto. He survived the Japanese, the Dutch and Suharto. He is a survivor."

He does not understand the economy but he understands how to buy people and how to kill people. He understands the army."

firmly that he will participate in the election, and he returns to a party that has been shattered and is being terrorised.

Obstacles to plans for the election include the conflict in northern Cambodia between government forces and troops loyal to Prince Ranariddh. Mr Hum Sen warned at the weekend that if the fighting continues the prince will have to break off relations with his military command or risk disqualifying himself from the poll.

The killing of scores of his followers since the coup — the latest on Saturday — has also raised concerns that politically motivated violence and intimidation may make a free and fair election impossible.

Turkey warns of war as EU embraces Cyprus

Stephen Bates in Brussels

TENSION between Turkey and Greece over Cyprus heightened yesterday as the Turkish foreign minister, Ismail Cem, warned that the start of negotiations for the Greek half of the island to join the European Union was a provocation that could lead to renewed war.

"The treatment by the EU of the Greek Cypriot administration as the representative of the whole of Cyprus constitutes the first step towards escalation in the eastern Mediterranean, which can be very dangerous," Mr Cem said.

Turkey is still smarting over its failure to be accepted as an early candidate for admission to the EU — an application it has been making since the early 1960s. It has

withdrawn its application, and protested last month when the Greek half of Cyprus obtained the go-ahead.

Mr Cem said: "We once again call upon the EU to evaluate its future steps very carefully before it is too late and before the Greek Cypriot administration paves the way towards another war in the island."

His words came as 11 heads of eastern European states attended a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Brussels to start lengthy negotiations to join the union.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, chaired the meeting and described it as an historic milestone.

There were 27 speeches, from member states, applicants and the European Commission, before the gathering broke for lunch and the cut-

ting of a cake, decorated with a map of an enlarged EU.

Today the six countries deemed closest to membership early next century — the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Slovenia, Estonia and Cyprus — will formally present their credentials to join.

The remaining five, Slovakia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Bulgaria, will be able to join the process once economic reforms have taken effect and, in some cases, their political and human rights records have improved.

All the applicants face a gruelling accession procedure. Their economic and political systems will be pored over by more than 1,200 EU officials, and questionnaires running to 90,000 pages each must be filled in to the EU's satisfaction before the process is complete.

Sisi fever sweeps Vienna



They are selling Barbie dolls in her image and chocolate balls with her signature. **Kate Connolly** in Vienna looks at the cult of Empress Elisabeth



ACENTURY after her death Vienna is wallowing in nostalgia for its favourite Habsburg empress — a syndrome known as "Sisi fever".

The image of Empress Elisabeth, or "Sisi" as she is still affectionately known, is being used to market ice-cream, a cartoon figure and a Barbie "fairy-tale empress" doll.

When the beautiful and highly strung empress was stabbed to death by an Italian anarchist in Geneva in September 1898, she was already something of a legend. Few photographs of her had been permitted since her mid-thirties, ensuring she would be remembered for her youthful good looks. She was renowned for rebelling against the confines of court life, and she famously won a battle against her estranged husband, Emperor Franz Josef, for the right to bring up their children.

Now her image is once again tagging at the hearts of visitors to Vienna. To maximise the revenue she will posthumously pull in for the flagging Austrian tourist industry, both her face and signature have been copyrighted. They both appear on chocolate Sisi balls, jars of instant coffee, dar-

jeeling tea and pots of jam. Watches, ashtrays and bottles of champagne also carry her image.

The gym where she exercised each morning to maintain her famed 16.5in waist is on display in Vienna's Hofburg Palace as part of a city-wide exhibition. Empress Elisabeth — Eternal Beauty, which opens tomorrow, charts her rise from shy Bavarian princess to forthright empress. Her jewellery, wardrobe and other possessions will be on show at her villa retreats and at imperial palaces in and around Vienna, along with her writings.

The poet-empress rewrote Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. "She took out the happy ending and set the donkey's head on her husband's shoulders instead," said Susanne Walter, the exhibition's curator.

The mawkishness surrounding the year-long Sisi-fever seems to know no bounds. A company called Albatross Dream Weddings is offering a three-night "Sisi Wedding" package complete with period costumes and horse-drawn carriages. Sisi milk is on sale at the imperial summer retreat, Schönbrunn Palace; it celebrates the empress's attachment to her

cows, which even accompanied her on cruises.

Tourist officials country-wide have been quick to cash in on the lucrative similarities between Sisi and Diana, Princess of Wales. An exhibition at Albrecht Castle in southern Austria, Sisi and Diana — Two Royal Fates, Two Holes of Their Time, is to open at the weekend. It concludes: "Both women were hunted by the tabloid press, both had to fight for their children, maybe both were victims of an assassin... They could have been sisters."

Crowds welcome ousted prince home



Prince Ranariddh: back but guarded about his role

Nick Cunningham-Bruce in Phnom Penh

CAMBODIA'S political temperature rose yesterday as the ousted First Prime Minister, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, ending nearly nine months in exile, returned to Phnom Penh and a chaotic reception by crowds of supporters.

A small group of foreign diplomats provided a low-key reception for Prince Ranariddh as he arrived from Bangkok, completing one stage in a Japanese-brokered agreement to prepare Cambodia for multi-party elections in July. But the ensuing crush of supporters prompted aides to abandon the airport recep-

tion. Instead, they whisked him by car to the hotel that will be his base.

At about the same time about 1,500 people walked through central Phnom Penh with placards urging "Don't follow people who cause political instability", echoing the slogans of a rather contrived weekend demonstration against his return. Most in the crowd of several hundred at the airport were enthusiastic to see the prince. "I'm very happy," shouted Pros, aged 30, a government worker. "Prince Ranariddh brings democracy to Cambodia."

The prince seemed less sure. He described his return as "a necessary but not sufficient condition to have a fair and credible election".

He offered to meet the Second Prime Minister, Hun Sen, Cambodia's unrivalled boss since a coup toppled Prince Ranariddh last July. They should not talk about their disputes of the past, he suggested, "but we have to talk about the elections and what happens after them".

The prince, whose intention was to stay in Cambodia only four days to test the political climate, is for now due to meet only his party supporters and diplomats. Analysts in Phnom Penh were as guarded as the prince in assessing the impact of his return. "It's a necessary step but qualified by the fact that it happens only four months before the election," a diplomat said. "It is not yet con-

firmed that he will participate in the election, and he returns to a party that has been shattered and is being terrorised."

Obstacles to plans for the election include the conflict in northern Cambodia between government forces and troops loyal to Prince Ranariddh. Mr Hum Sen warned at the weekend that if the fighting continues the prince will have to break off relations with his military command or risk disqualifying himself from the poll.

The killing of scores of his followers since the coup — the latest on Saturday — has also raised concerns that politically motivated violence and intimidation may make a free and fair election impossible.

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A Thought for Easter

"For all the happiness mankind can gain is not in pleasure but in pain."

John Dryden (1631-1700)

Day after day, night after night you have helped us to provide rest from pain.

May the happiness gained be yours as well this Easter and always.

Sister Superior

Comment

Diary

Matthew Norman

ALERTED by the Cypriot servant Taki George ("the domestic with the domestica" as his new Yellow Pages advert puts it) to "a nasty little profile", we turn to Jacob Weisberg's piece on Paul Johnson in the New York Times magazine. It seems a very balanced article to me. It does mention the myriad howlers in Paul's A History Of The American People, but it also celebrates Paul's role as mentor to the celebrated. My sane and rational friend shows off a recent letter from Mr Tony Blair ("Dear Paul, you are simply one of the most remarkable people in our country"), and reveals how he counselled Princess Diana ("Don't commit adultery. That was my chief advice.") We conclude today's instalment (there is too much here for one go) with an appeal. Mr Weisberg mentions The Quotable Paul Johnson, an American collection of Paul's aphorisms. Anyone with a copy must contact the Diary forthwith.

THE Football Association continued to ridicule its image as an organisation of out of touch barons with an impressive press conference yesterday in its Council Chamber. The clock was still an hour behind, but it would be wrong to read this as metaphor. After all, in September the clock will rejoin the rest of us.

In a neat twist on past form, Max Clifford is a victim of Sun ruthlessness. When he rang for a replacement of his original Freddy Starr Ate My Hamster front page which had become worn, Max was quoted as saying, "Five hundred quid!" says Max. "For my own bloody story!" Meanwhile, more cheering news: Max is poised to host a Jerry Springer-type talk show on TV, a job he will be suited to as he has been a bit of a blabbermouth. Max was quoted as saying, "The newspaper reports had nothing to do with reality. It's a rotten old world for the innocent."

FEARS that Alastair Campbell's innate self-effacement might hinder his career are fading. The one-time Riviera Gigolo has been firing off dictatorial letters to senior ministers, telling them to keep their traps shut. This is more like it. On 11 November, Al told the Guardian that all this talk of his immense power was cobblers. "It would be wrong," he said, "to build up an unelected figure." Now that he has abandoned that naive notion, all he needs to do is drop the obsession with old style courtousness, and he might really make something of himself.

FROM the countries at the heart of Europe to the remotest of the globe, the penis is a common denominator. A Berliner who paid £5,000 for enlargement surgery has emerged from hospital with a penis smaller than the one he took in with him. In Toulouse, however, Marcel Danielou had no such complaints. M. Danielou, 51, went to hospital for surgery on his bunnions, the Big Issue reports, but an administrative error sent him to the wrong theatre where he received instead a mechanical, six-inch penis extension. "I knew something was wrong when I woke up with an erection," says M. Danielou. "I haven't had one of those for decades." He says it's just what he always wanted, "and it seems to have helped the bunnions too."

ACOLLEAGUE notes a new trend among US-west coast vagrants. "Why lie?" read the sign around the neck of a beggar he saw in San Francisco last week. "It's for beer."



Political payments? No problem — provided we know who's paying

Hugo Young



IN THE old days, when capitalism and socialism were enemies, the links between money and power were easy to read. The trade unions funded the Labour Party to pursue a common interest in redistribution and leftist enlightenment. The Conservatives were funded by business, big and small, to defeat this menacing project. It was a simple world, in which almost everybody knew where the money was. The parties were in the pockets of their financiers, but there was little concealment. If that world still existed, there would be no temporising now, for example, about the meaning of Labour's election pledge on trade union recognition. The pipers would know the tune, and there'd be a national crisis if they didn't hear the call to play it.

Today's surges of alarm about power and money are a direct result of the end of class politics. Money and influence are foot-loose, unanchored in any enduring interest. It is the very purpose of New Labour that this should be so. Determined to be the party of the classless centre, it prides itself on its financial as well as ideological promiscuity. The less it depends on its old financial friends, the more credible it thinks it will be.

The news, therefore, is not surprising: no sooner had Labour won the last election than it was turning its mind to the next. And now it had something to offer. Closeness to power is an ennobling commodity. As the party of all the people, and the Government of all the interests, it would deepen its connections with business, the source of significant political finance as well as the muscle of economic performance. So it is not shocking to hear that New Labour operatives

think about how business people might be softened up, by access to the Prime Minister, to give his party money. This is how John Major tried to raise money, though he fastidiously drew the line, to the fury of Tory treasurers, at staging overt party fund-raising events in Downing Street.

The politico-business environment, let's face it, is completely interpenetrated. There was a strong connection under the Tories. Business tycoons trying to make headway in China found it helpful to have Michael Heseltine leading their trade delegations. New Labour is proud, indeed anxious, to continue the tradition. To a proper Blairite, the recent conversations with Rupert Murdoch were all in the day's work. In an ideology-free world, top businessmen and leading ministers are conjoined under the same miasmic assumptions.

Their sharing goes further. In another evolution, the Downing Street Years have become an apprenticeship for the Business Experience. Both Mrs Thatcher and Mr Major became millionaires on the back of it, and Mr Blair need have no doubt on this score when his time comes. The experience, as a type, is a glamour stock, festooned with directorships if he wants them, overflowing with globalisable connections, a deeply desirable business partner. We are a very long way from the period when neither Denis Healey nor Roy Jenkins, Iron Chancellors both, had market value, as business people, after leaving public office.

How much all this rests on shared illusions may be debatable. For any international business, an ex-prime minister, irrespective of commercial sagacity, should certainly have an address-book. On the

other side, for a businessman merely to get inside Downing Street to converse with the PM or his chief of staff doesn't necessarily signify anything very terrible. And if, through a delicate piece of suggestion, this were to come with an implicit tariff, perhaps rising to the equivalent of sleeping in the Lincoln Bedroom at the White House, which is how the Clinton administration influenced the Prime Minister's mind — for better and, maybe, worse — as distinct from taking prideful pleasure in his company, prior to handing over a cheque that helps him to another term.

The best we can demand is the material that enables us to keep alert. This means, I think, knowing more about who comes and goes. Why shouldn't the Prime Minister's appointments diary and entertainment lists be a matter of public record? It would be only a fragmentary invasion of his privacy, but would tell something.

Quite certainly we need to know where every penny of all parties' money comes from: not just the names but the amounts, not just the campaign funds but the blind trusts. It's not a crime to help support a party. In fact, it's a public service. But it shouldn't be an embarrassment either: a guilty secret in which giver and receiver conspire to relieve themselves of — what? The assumption that there is such a thing as influence. Yet of course there is such a thing, and of course the money helps to oil it. In the old days, we knew who poured the oil, without need of declarations. Now that those days are gone, declaration of every asset fact is our only, inadequate, defence against the hand that previously wasn't hidden.

As Maria Eagle, Labour MP for Liverpool Garston, put it to him at the hearing, when you walk into a brick wall three times, who do you blame, the wall or yourself?

This is the man Frank Dobson, the health secretary, has just charged with bringing down waiting lists by 100,000 within 12 months and given him £200 million to do it.

The Department of Health's response is to say

We will redistribute

Harriet Harman



VOTERS have signalled their overwhelming support for measures which tackle poverty and social exclusion. But they have resoundingly rejected high taxes and hand-outs for the poor. The traditional means of redistribution have been given the thumbs-down. The ends are as popular as ever.

We are altering the means of redistribution with the welfare reform programme, set out in last week's Green Paper. In place of a passive system of cash benefits, we have an active welfare-to-work programme, which helps people to find employment, removes obstacles which deter them from taking jobs, makes sure that work pays enough to be worthwhile, and creates an infrastructure to sustain people once they are employed.

And we are broadening the scope of redistribution by making sure that it reaches people with disabilities and women. Beveridge's vision of welfare was based on the able-bodied male breadwinner who might suffer temporary interruptions to a life in full-time work. We now recognise that there are degrees of employability, not a harsh divide between those who can and those who cannot work. We recognise that part-time work is not a marginal pursuit but a major feature of the labour market. And that paid work should be compatible with family life.

Now that the Green Paper is out, we are starting to unfold the practical details of welfare reform. David Blunkett and I announced yesterday the New Deal for Disabled People, which will cover more than a quarter of a million people on incapacity benefit. This means they gain access to a personal adviser service, which offers tailor-made assistance to find appropriate work.

A new "linking rule" will remove the financial risk from taking a job which may not last. So if you are forced out of work by illness or disability within a year, you can return to benefit as if you had never left, rather than facing losses of up to £40 per week. A new Disabled Person's Tax Credit will replace and improve on the Disability Working Allowance from October 1999.

This autumn we will abolish the rule which stops people on incapacity benefit doing more than 16 hours voluntary work each week. We want to encourage volunteering because we recognise its enormous social benefits, because disabled people have long

been urging Government to make the chance, and because we know that voluntary work often serves as a bridge to paid employment.

Of course we recognise that many disabled people cannot work and may never be able to do so. Giving them the support they need remains a firm commitment — one we shall fulfil more effectively if we also help those who want to work to realise their ambitions.

In a parallel programme of reforms, we are redesigning the system to help women who want to work. Unbelievably, in workless two-adult households where the man is registered unemployed, the woman is treated purely and simply as his dependant, even if she has no children — not as someone able and willing to work in her own right. This is a legacy of the Beveridge plan, which assumed that women left "gainful occupation" when they got married. To reflect women's real ambitions in the 1990s, those under 25 without children will have the same opportunities and obligations under the New Deal as their male partners.

Next month we are extending the New Deal to all lone parents making a new claim for income support. Here, too, new "linking rules" will remove the risk of losing benefit if a job does not last.

But for women with children who want to work, it is not enough just to help them find jobs. They need childcare

Our measures are designed to make work a lot more family-friendly

and a working environment which is friendly rather than hostile to their family life.

This week, the Government is launching a public consultation on implementing the EU Directive on Working Time — the first in a series of changes to working life that are coming to Britain now that we have signed the Social Chapter — on shorter working hours, parental leave and part-time working. Next month, a Green Paper setting out our national childcare strategy will be published by David Blunkett and myself.

These measures, combined with efforts to persuade employers that they are good for business, are designed to make work a lot more family-friendly. That's an essential part of the support system for working mothers. And as more cases depend on benefits, public money can be better spent on those for whom paid work is not an option.

The gritty-gritty of welfare reform may not be very glamorous. But it is the practical detail that will make the difference — by changing the means and broadening the scope of redistribution, to tackle poverty and social exclusion in ways that suit the world we live in today.

Harriet Harman is Secretary of State for Social Security

The health service's top manager never really faces the music

Millions thrown away

David Hencke

ALAN Langlands is not a name that's likely to be tripping off the tongues of the partridge at the Dog and Partridge, or any other local hostelry. Yet the same people are quite likely to discuss how they had to wait two hours in casualty last month or how their aged aunt or grandma is waiting nine months for a hip replacement.

If they but knew they might be very interested in Alan Langlands. As his curriculum vitae says (courtesy of the Department of Health), he is the chief executive of the National Health Service in England and "the most senior health service manager in the United Kingdom."

The ministry blurb continues: "He is the Secretary of State for Health's principal

policy adviser for the NHS and is directly accountable to him for the effective stewardship of a revenue budget of £34 billion."

Last week he was directly accountable to someone else — to Parliament — and through them to the general public who pay his salary. It was not a pretty sight.

His appearance was to explain before MPs on the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee a particularly appalling scandal involving the waste of some £20 million on developing a new computer code for the NHS.

Its inventor, Dr James Read, and his company, Computer Assisted Medical Services, have made a tidy £9 million out of the NHS from inventing the code. The health service signed a deal allowing Dr Read to head the NHS centre promoting his product and

He was asked: If you walk into a wall three times, do you blame the wall?

make as much as he likes overseas. To add a little bit of tabloid spice, the doctor also promoted a woman civil servant seconded to assist him. Later he ran off with her, deserting his wife. Mr Langlands' response was to announce that he was likely to spend an extra

£4.25 million on the still defective computer code — to keep Britain at the "competitive edge". Dr Read and Mr Langlands both believe the code will work perfectly in the end. In use by 90 per cent of GPs. The Department of Health says he is expected to adopt the code next month in a new computer strategy white paper.

This little scandalette was in fact the third appearance Mr Langlands had made before the Public Accounts Committee to explain away waste of money. In 1993 he and his predecessor, Sir Duncan Nichol, had to explain why £100 million had been wasted on a collapsed computer project at Wessex health authority. More recently he had to explain why another £100 million scheme for a national computer system for the NHS was also having problems. As regional general man-

ager of the now defunct North West Thames Regional Health authority, he was also responsible for another multi-million project — the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. His legacy is a beautiful building, but one which ended up costing taxpayers £236 million to construct instead of the £109 million promised — possibly the worst hospital cost overrun in NHS history.

As Maria Eagle, Labour MP for Liverpool Garston, put it to him at the hearing, when you walk into a brick wall three times, who do you blame, the wall or yourself?



that Mr Langlands is a brilliant manager and that none of this is his fault and that he was prepared to go to Parliament and face the music. He either didn't know, wasn't there, or in the case of Kensington and Chelsea Hospital, had moved on. Rather like T S Eliot's Marjorie the Cat, Mr Langlands is remarkably good at being absent from the scene of the crime.

Maria Eagle thinks perhaps he should consider his position. The Public Accounts Committee will certainly issue, in the chairman David Davis's words, a "robust" report. But beyond that, nothing else will happen. No resignation, no strong words from Frank Dobson and no remorse. Until of course Mr Langlands appears again to explain the next NHS scandal. No wonder he can keep a low profile at the Dog and Partridge.

Shooting the messenger

The dangers of populism

IN POLITICS, as in most walks of life, it is tempting to believe that we live in the shadow of a Golden Age in which all those concerned invariably behave with dignity and sagacity. Younger readers of Joe Haines' crisp summary of the dilemmas engulfing Tony Blair's press secretary, Alastair Campbell, in yesterday's Daily Mail would have been forgiven for thinking that things were handled better in Harold Wilson's day when Mr Haines did Mr Campbell's job.

In truth they usually weren't, though Mr Campbell faces many professional challenges (some of his own making) which Mr Haines, also a former political editor of the Daily Mirror, did not. But Joe too had a temper and a fierce loyalty to his leader and party. He bullied glibby ministers, as Mr Campbell is found to have bullied Harriet Harman and Frank Field in those two leaked memos. He fell out with lobby journalists so often that he eventually cancelled his twice-daily briefings. Mr Campbell has not done that, not yet, though these are still early, balmy days. However hard done by they feel inside the Downing St bunker, things will get worse.

Not having been born with much of the stuff, Labour leaders have always needed money too. In Wilson's days there were problems with press lords and dodgy business connections (it is sometimes forgotten that the Thatcherite Jimmy Goldsmith got his K from Harold), and with sleaze as we now call it. Who remembers the famous Slagheaps Affair, let alone Ramsay MacDonald's car, donated by a biscuit firm? But

then, the media was always trouble. Indeed, so well has New Labour learned the lessons of discipline in the 1960s and 1970s that it is in danger of wanting to clone its backbenchers: Stepford Wives and Husbands, plus a few trendy Stepford Confirmed Bachelors.

In this regard, the Government's instincts for parliamentary management chime with its wider instincts for, how shall we put this delicately, social discipline. We are all expected to stay employed and on message now. Faxes, those ever-bleeping pagers, PCs, mobile phones and other high-tech paraphernalia assist the task of keeping MPs in line. Admittedly, they also undermine it, since the enemy — the now ubiquitous media — has them too.

The net results are often undignified and dispiriting. As Mr Haines says, backbenchers who think they can crawl their way to office by parroting slogans dreamed up by Millbank techie are mistaken. At least, we hope they are. But New Labour's incipient brand of authoritarian populism has special dangers which Mr Blair and Mr Campbell would be wise to ponder.

One is that they would do better treating both media and MPs as adults by stimulating genuine public debate about welfare reform and other issues, not by seeking always to control or distract them, with silly stories or "constituency weeks". The People's Government sometimes shows alarming disdain for the People's Intelligence.

Another is more personal. Right from the start Mr Campbell has let himself stay in the limelight in ways most press secretaries, Mr Haines included, never did. He appeared on TV, he gave interviews, he signed memos to Ms Harman and St Francis in his own name, not the boss's. This might matter less had he not also placed his press briefings on the record, albeit not sourced to him by name. All of this is

admirably self-effacing in its way, but when the press can regurgitate a week's verbal wriggling over the Blair-Prodi phone call, the formula's limitations are exposed. For Robin Cook to rally to Mr Blair's defence while failing to add anything of substance does nothing at all to divert attention. The way that this has been handled results in making Mr Campbell an issue. He should not be one.

To rout racism

Self-interest requires action

RACISM, as yesterday's well argued report from the Football Task Force notes, is not of football's making. It is society's problem but the report sets out powerful reasons why the national game should be more rigorous in facing the challenge of racism. Football's capacity to unite people surpasses all other sports in Britain but so does its power to divide. It has become so intrinsic to national life that the people who feel unable to take part as supporters or players feel an even greater sense of exclusion. Yet, even though black footballers now account for 15 per cent of professional players, the proportion of black and Asian spectators attending premier league games is a mere 1 per cent. Worse still, the number of black supporters is actually dropping. In a passage which should be placed in every club room, the task force concludes: "For a game often accused of taking more than it gives, the value of work by football to 'put something back into society' cannot be overstated."

The problem has much deeper roots than the premier league. The report notes the absence of a single Asian professional footballer at this top level — or even one black face on the 92-member FA council — but if the purpose is to "kick racism out of

football" then this has to embrace the entire sport. Progress is already being made towards eliminating racism from the professional game but it is still rampant in junior sections on local parks — so rampant that Asian footballers have set up their own leagues.

The reform package begins at the bottom — with a call on local authorities to exclude local clubs with a record of racist incidents from council-owned fields — and goes right up to the top with detailed recommendations on stewards' training and an instruction to referees for an immediate red card for any racist comments on the field of play. The report also recommends that contracts for players and managers should contain anti-racism pledges with a breach to be punished by heavy fines or even dismissal: that would certainly add a new note to a type of document not usually too concerned with questions of ethics.

Will it succeed? Ministers promptly agreed to close the loophole in the Football Offences Act under which an individual, as against a group, chanting racist abuse is free from prosecution. There are sound reasons why it is in the self-interest of clubs to react equally positively. Widening the pool of players would raise standards, while attracting multiracial public support would fill an another gaping hole: urgently needed extra cash.

Short change

In the end the banks will lose

THE KERFUZZLE over Lloyds TSB discouraging staff from alerting customers about other accounts with higher returns raises a key issue: who are banks primarily serving — shareholders or savers? Lloyds — one of our best banks which made £3 billion profit last year — pays virtually no

interest on current accounts but 3.4 per cent on instant access. The 3.4 per cent rate is not over-generous. It just covers inflation and so merely keeps the real value of money from falling. But the minimalist rate on current accounts means that deposits fall in real terms (while the bank is lending them out at upwards of 8 per cent). This is curious because a lot of current account money is the result of wages being paid directly into banks. This is business the banks ought to be falling over themselves to attract since it provides a steady revenue stream. Instead, Lloyds and other institutions offer minimal interest rates and sting customers heavily if they dare to run up an overdraft. The current banking scandal in the Irish Republic presents another form of sharp practice, reflecting the same disregard for customers' interests. One of the accusations — already admitted by the National Irish Bank — is that it hiked interest rates on overdrafts without telling the client.

Banks will plead *caveat emptor* and it is certainly true that customers ought to be able to leapfrog over their own inertia to inquire about more rewarding rates of interest. That's what happens in theoretical economics textbooks if not in real life. But banks also set themselves up as financial advisers giving shrewd advice about financial products. If they fail to inform their own savers of better in-house alternatives they are unlikely to build up the long-term customer loyalty on which profits ultimately depend. In future it will be different. Banks will be forced to woo customers. Not because they have had a change of heart but because new technology will force them to. You don't need banks any more to be a banker. Increasing competition from super-markets, insurance companies and online banks offering higher rates will force the pace of change. Banks will either pay up or lose the business.

Letters to the Editor

Taken from a different angle

I AM flattered that Simon Schama ascribes to me the phrase "God's Englishman" as a description of Oliver Cromwell (Past master, G2, March 30). Unfortunately the phrase was taken from Milton: "God is decreeing to begin some new and great period... What does he then but reveal himself... as his manner is, first to his Englishmen?" (Areopagitica).

And it was taken by Christopher Hill as the title of his biography. The title of my own biography, Cromwell Our Chief of Men, was also taken from Milton, hence perhaps the confusion. Lady Antonia Fraser. London.

LOOKING at the photo of President Clinton behind bars alongside President Mandela (Two presidents and one unbroken dream, March 28), do you think Mr Clinton was acquiring a few tips in case his own homegrown problems go pear-shaped? Stephen Brooks. London.

WHERE did the common use of "pear-shaped" come from? Research on risks for coronary heart disease shows waist-to-hip ratio is the best predictor. But it is apple-shaped, rather than pear-shaped people, who are at greatest risk. In this context, pear-shaped is healthy. I, therefore, propose that pear-shaped be replaced by apple-shaped when referring to negative outcomes. Dr Stephen Wright. Leicester.

ROY Greenslade says that BSkyB is a British business (No joking matter, Media, March 30). After all, it is broadcast by a satellite company based in Luxembourg, pays hardly any British tax, and is controlled by an Australian who holds an American passport. But then, if 12 million Sun readers like to believe BSkyB is British, then that is good enough for Blair. I Morgan. Lincoln.

WILL Sky TV please buy the rights to the boat race and save us ordinary mortals from this boring, snobbish Oxbridge institution. Bob Holman. Glasgow.

Second opinion on flower power

CONGRATULATIONS to Polly Toynbee (We can't waste NHS cash on flower power and mumbo-jumbo, March 30). NHS doctors have been forced into supporting the "benefits" of complementary therapies by the combined forces of the Patients' Charter and the marketing and PR success of the alternative industries. Disillusion with the failure of doctors to give satisfactory explanations has caused too many patients to seek "alternative" therapies, probably to the detriment of their own lives. The fault is not with the doctors, but with an international system that has not only failed to fund research into causes, but also suppressed information in order to maintain profits — as with the defeat of their own lives. The fault is not with the doctors, but with an international system that has not only failed to fund research into causes, but also suppressed information in order to maintain profits — as with the defeat of their own lives.

MY LOCAL newspaper recently devoted two pages to a new medical centre, which "combines a standard NHS general practice and conventional medicine with natural homeopathic, herbal and anthroposophic medicines".

One of the three GPs explained: "We get many patients who just don't want conventional medicine and who are pleased to find [alternative medicines] in an NHS practice." The Tory philosophy of a consumer society has a lot to answer for. Martin Rochester. Stroud, Glos.

IT MUST be dreadful to live a life imprisoned within attitudes of such rigidity. Perhaps Polly Toynbee should try Dr Bach's Beech remedy for judgmental intolerance. As for the placebo effect, try telling that to two of my cats who in their untreated state hiss and spit and claw the fur from each other's backs. But all it takes is a couple of days with flower remedies added to their food and feline harmony purrs through my household in blissful contentment. Elizabeth Dearlove. High Wycombe, Bucks.

POLLY Toynbee revealed her own ignorance which is based on a blindly narrow belief in "rational, scientific medicine". Did she know that about 10 to 20 per cent of all biomedical interventions

on which she seems to put her trust have already been shown to be "flying the flag of scientific proof"? Are billions of Asians who benefit from traditional Chinese medicine living in a "dash of cultures between science and superstition"? As the English surgeon Joshua Horn observed 30 years ago, it may seem irrational and dogmatic in the light of scientific discoveries, but traditional medicine "embodied brilliant deductive reasoning based on empirical observation". Hypo-Je Cho. London School of Economics.

APPLAUD Polly Toynbee's interest in evidence-based medicine, but she should be aware that "publication bias" exists in allopathic circles as well as alternative ones. The likelihood of getting a piece of research published by a respected journal is increased not only by positive results but also the fame of the authors and their institution. This presents a particular problem for GPs wishing to report results of research. Ms Toynbee should remember when reading of the latest breakthrough in high-tech

medicine that the negative studies may not have been published and in the case of new surgical techniques, the research may not even have been carried out. Dr Jane Rees. Medical adviser, Shropshire Primary Care Audit Group, Shrewsbury.

THERE are certainly well-agreed principles by which scientific assertions should be tested, though interpreting the results may be tricky. It is in not agreeing to these that some supporters of homeopathy make a bad mistake. There is obvious scope for a multi-way experiment in which a group of people with a particular affliction participate. Four groups should be involved: each group should select the treatment (homeopathic or conventional) that they require, but only two should be given what they ask for, the other two being given the opposite. As an agnostic on homeopathy who has used the NHS a handful of occasions in 30 years, I would welcome such rigorous investigations. Bob Margolis. Yateley, Hants.

Collusion issue central to talks

YOUR account of military intelligence officer Brian Nelson's involvement in the Irish conflict does not reveal his full legacy (Army link to IRA assassinations, March 30). In 1988, Nelson, with the full knowledge of his handlers, was responsible for smuggling into the Six Counties a huge consignment of rifles, pistols, grenade launchers and thousands of rounds of ammunition from South Africa for use by loyalist paramilitaries. It is quite possible that these arms are still in use.

Far from "overshadowing" the peace process, as your report suggests, the Nelson case — indeed, the whole issue of strategic collusion between British crown forces and loyalists — should be central to its agenda. Anyone who believes Nelson was a rogue figure is remarkably naive. Dr David Alderson. Staffordshire University, Stafford.

Note for satanists: Rabelais makes Crowley look tame

MUST draw the attention of Jonathan Jones (Speak of the devil, The Week, March 30) and that of Aleister Crowley's many followers (and detractors) to the fact that both his Abbey of Thelema and its motto "Do What Thou Wilt Shall be the Whole of the Law" were not his inventions but quotations from the 16th-century French writer Rabelais. In his masterpiece Gargantua and Pantagruel, Rabelais's fictional excesses make Crowley's seem tame stuff.

By the way, I have never fathomed the peculiar prudery of the British in failing to acknowledge Crowley as an artist and writer. Had he been French or Spanish, his position in the canon of 20th-century avant-garde intellectuals would have been assured. Mike Peters. Leeds.

Jonathan Jones's article, Aleister Crowley was "a wonderfully intelligent man" who also "killed" a cat nine times to "see if the superstition was true". "Killing" a cat nine times would result in a dead cat, whether the superstition were true or not. Even an averagely intelligent man would have "killed" the cat a maximum of eight times. Carlton B Morgan. Newport, Gwent.

Blocked out

FILM censorship of the type exercised by the BBFC (Analysis: They know what's good for you, 27 March) is not a big problem in this country. Few films are significantly affected by it, and hardly any have artistic merit.

Far more important is the commercial censorship prevailing, which means that many acclaimed films (almost invariably non-Hollywood) are given only a very limited distribution, while many others are not released at all. Whenever a multiplex opens, like the one in neighbouring Bexleyheath this week, the same dreary list of blockbusters dominates the screens. This is the problem which anti-censorship campaigners should be trying to tackle. What proportion of the population, for example, will ever see Sokurov's astonishing Mother and Son, just released in one out-of-the-way London cinema? Alan Pavellin. Chislehurst, Kent.



Blair strikes chord with teachers

THANK goodness Tony Blair has demonstrated that speaking a second language is not a disadvantage. After all, taking part in music-making activities, whether playing a classroom glockenspiel or learning the bassoon, not only gives pleasure to the player, but also to the listener. I look forward to hearing Mr Blair singing (in French perhaps) to the accompaniment of his own guitar. The Owl and the Pussy-Cat est merveilleuse en français! Bruce Kerrow. Buckingham.

people watching BBC Young Musician of the Year this week will be quite dismayed when they see the results. After all, taking part in music-making activities, whether playing a classroom glockenspiel or learning the bassoon, not only gives pleasure to the player, but also to the listener. I look forward to hearing Mr Blair singing (in French perhaps) to the accompaniment of his own guitar. The Owl and the Pussy-Cat est merveilleuse en français! Bruce Kerrow. Buckingham.

Memory loss

WOMEN unable to attend the talk by Germaine Greer, Erica Jong and Fay Weldon recorded by Catherine Bennett (Blood feuds, March 28) will be disappointed by the lack of substance and detail in her article. Rather than convey some sense of how their feminist ideas have developed since the 1970s, Bennett chose to take up a third of a page to ridicule them for "changing their minds" and ask them for apologies. Most of us could apologise for things we did and said 20 years ago, but it would be somewhat self-indulgent and time-consuming. Julie Doughty. Cardiff.

GERMAINE Greer? Isn't she the writer who wrote a book which many women say had an enormous impact on their lives and helped them to see not only who they were, but what they were? Catherine Bennett? Now who was she again? Annaly Campbell. Sutton Coldfield.

Death warrant

GENOCIDE in East Timor is among the century's worst crimes. VIII Indonesian Vice-president Habibie's official visit to the UK on Friday help to shorten East Timor's illegal occupation? Not unless the truth is revealed. So I'm pleased the Foreign Office is to ask Foreign Secretary Robin Cook to help to shorten East Timor's illegal occupation? Not unless the truth is revealed. So I'm pleased the Foreign Office is to ask Foreign Secretary Robin Cook to help to shorten East Timor's illegal occupation?

The government's silence would have been seen as British approval of the murders and as a "green light" for the full-scale invasion of East Timor on December 7, 1975 and the subsequent genocide. Australian government disinformation about Balibo misled Tony Benn, my then MP. I stayed fooled until 1994. Unless the present Government wishes Indonesia's dictatorship to continue to suppose that genocide enjoys Britain's support, it must make a strong statement — during Dr Habibie's visit. Maureen Tolfree. British Coalition for East Timor, Bristol.

Spin doctors and problems of perception north of the Watford Gap

WHILE largely agreeing with the article about the southern bias of the media, or to be more precise the Westminster bias (Blair's two nations drift apart, The Week, March 28), I challenge the notion that journalists travelling north of the Watford Gap will, by osmosis, pick up the social problems of the North-west. If the conference is in Blackpool, nine out of 10 journalists will have invented the main topic dividing delegates on the journey north. They will argue, with some justification, that political party conferences are so

stage-managed by spin doctors that it is now necessary to invent conflict in order to facilitate genuine debate. This is story-telling rather than reporting. To be ultra-cynical, the arguments that will keep delegates awake at night during the conferences are: Labour's too cosy relationship with the Liberal Democrats; the Lib Dems will have a supposed mirror problem; the Tories will be putting Hague on 18 months probation, and if matters do not improve then he will be thrown out by the grandees.

The indifference of Westminster journalists to make these into facts to be reckoned with through broad coverage. Perception is all. In any event, why should Blackpool assume it has a god-given right for the conference trade? Why not Birmingham? Why not Edinburgh? Glasgow? Kevin Peters. Portsmouth.

Surely, having abandoned Blackpool, Labour conferences should not be held in places like Brighton or Bournemouth but at the Business and Design Centre in Milton Keynes. Mike Stewart. London.

Can you please refrain from using the word "election" as a substitute for middle-class, well off or New Labour. I am starting to find it insulting to myself and the other, poorer, inhabitants of the borough. Robert Thomas. London.

So "Britain is a small country", according to Phil Redmond. And he's irritated when Radio 4 traffic gives updates on Hangar Lane but doesn't mention Manchester. Well, not as irritated as I am when yet again "the North-east" apparently means the north-east of England (please note my address). Did you say you feel disenfranchised, Phil? I believe some others of us also vote. If you mean England (as stated in your first paragraph), please don't slide into writing Britain as if they are the same thing — this country is bigger than you think. Diana Woodard. Aberdeen.

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John Parker

Affairs of the heart

IN 1975, John Parker, who has died aged 60, was appointed consultant cardiac surgeon to St George's Hospital in South London. There was the opportunity to create an internationally recognised major cardiological unit. Today, that dream is reality: and Parker persuaded others that St George's was the place to be.

The initial steps were to obtain support from the British Heart Foundation for university chairs in cardiology and cardiovascular pathology, to set up an academic unit alongside which the NHS service rapidly expanded. Much of this was orchestrated by Parker, whose contacts with commerce and finance led to major trusts, like the Youde Foundation, supporting research and patient-care at St George's.

For Parker, the NHS service had to run in a unified manner: beds did not belong to one surgeon but to us all. And nowhere did his tenacity show through more than in

his initiation, in 1986, of the transplant programme which continues to this day.

John Parker spent his early life in what is now Zimbabwe and was educated at the Churchill School. He read medicine at St Andrew's University and was president of the Scottish Union of Students in 1961-62. Doubly qualified as MRCP and FRCS by 1967, he held posts at the National Heart and Brompton hospitals in London, and a year was spent in Birmingham, Alabama, before his appointment to St George's, where he was a master of coronary artery surgery.

His operating theatre was a calm place and, when things did not go well, he believed that the circumstances had to be honestly explored, and lessons learnt. Committed to communication, he was skilled in welding together miscellaneous groups to form a team within which everyone felt valued and involved. He published more than 50 papers in scientific journals and was never a passenger —



Parker... master of surgery

he often surprised his co-authors with his grasp of techniques far removed from his own surgical skills.

Outside St George's, Parker became the first surgeon to hold the British Cardiac Society presidency, overseeing its acquisition of a permanent building. He recently became president of the Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons, having been an executive member and vice president. He was also a pioneer in the

auditing of performance and patient care in the NHS. His CBE marked the time and effort he had given to administration at local and national level.

John Parker took great pleasure in sailing — and it enabled him to reach attractive coasts with good restaurants. He was active in the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. He also had an interest in the use of wood in the design and making of modern furniture, and had a good eye for a painting — particularly the St Ives school. He is survived by his wife, Nikki, and their three children.

Michael Davies

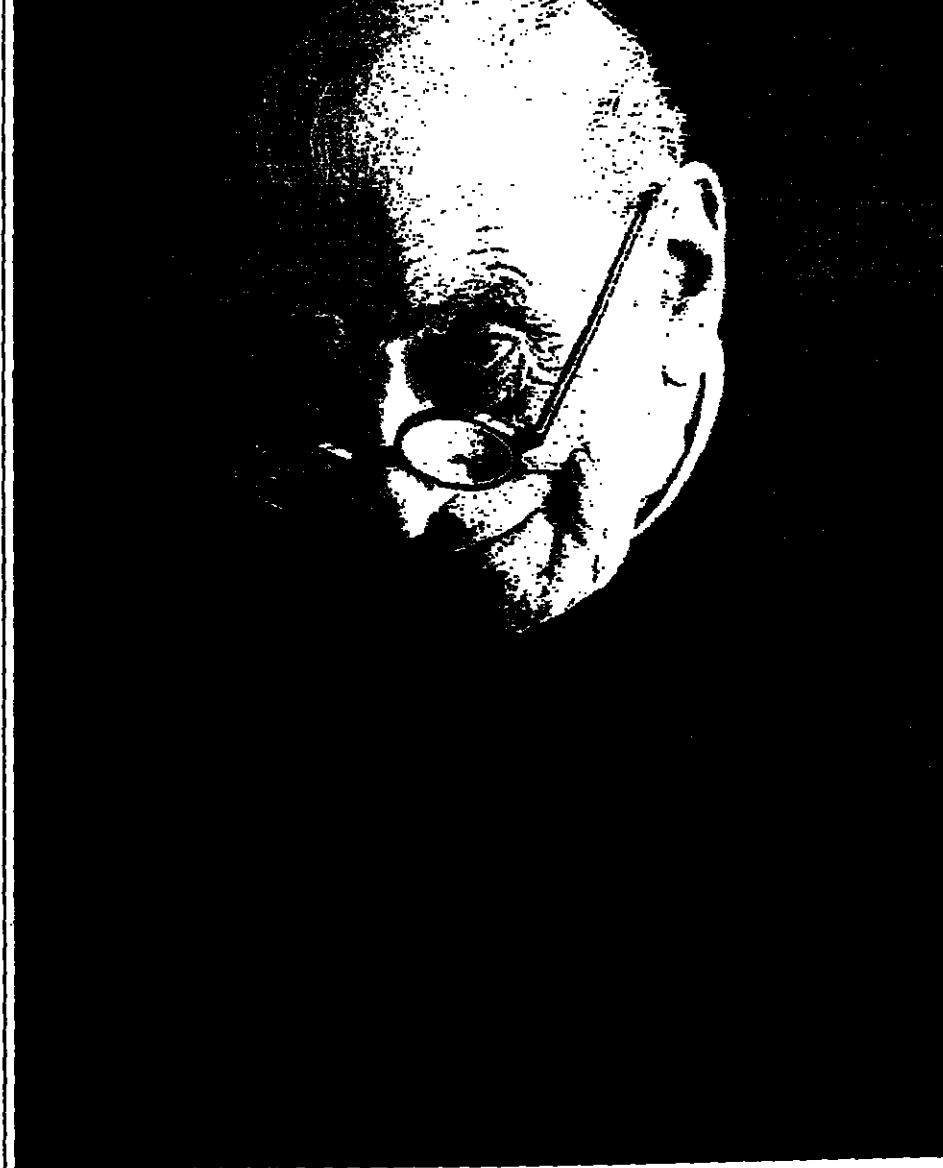
Peter Preston writes: It was a privilege, over 30 years, to be a friend of John Parker and his family. Knowing him taught you that the life of a dedicated surgeon is all-consuming in its emotional demands. Day after day, he drove himself to the limit and often the exhaustion was palpable. But from John, too, you

also learned that it was possible to combine this singular passion with the life and interests of a truly whole man.

He relished the arts and design. He sailed expertly. He could talk farming with farmers, architecture with architects, finance with the governor of the Bank of England and politics with the editor of the Guardian. They all, I think, learned something from him too.

The final months of illness must have been particularly cruel for him. He could not work — which meant that he could not give the gift of life. He must have guessed, better than anyone, the likely the course of events. Yet he was always stoic, always resilient. And perhaps the constant gatherings of far-flung families and friends may have told him something he needed to know: that he was not only widely admired, but loved.

John Parker, cardiac surgeon, born February 1, 1938; died March 2, 1998



Gilbey... he was mistakenly assumed to be reactionary and a snob

Monsignor Alfred Gilbey

To the ministry born

MONSIGNOR Alfred Gilbey, who has died aged 96, was a man of great sanctity and charm. His unapologetic loyalty to the habits and

mannerisms of the privileged class into which he was born, as well as to the costume of the pre-conciliar monsignor — a wide-brimmed hat and black frock-coat or cassock — led many to assume that he was a reactionary and a snob.

In 1965, for instance, pressure was put on him to resign as chaplain at Cambridge University, a post he had held for more than 30 years, because he refused to merge the chaplaincies for male and female undergraduates.

In reality, Gilbey was wholly unprejudiced in the performance of his pastoral duties, and his orthodoxy was a welcome refuge for those confused by the radicalism that dominated clerical attitudes in the wake of Vatican II. Although widely read, as became evident when he published his *Commonplace Book* in 1983, he had no intellectual pretensions and graduated with a pass degree in modern history from Trinity College, Cambridge. But his compendium, *We Believe*, has stood the test of time.

Gilbey was the youngest of the seven children of Newman Gilbey, of Mark Hall, Essex, and his Spanish wife, Maria Victoria de Ysal. His paternal grandfather had founded the business best known for Gilbey's gin. The family connection with the barony of the Vauxs was entirely recusant, but there is no such

heroism that he read in RH Benson's novels, predisposed him from an early age to become a priest; and his family's wealth enabled him to be ordained in his own patrimony. After education by the Jesuits at Beaumont, he studied at Beda College in Rome.

Gilbey was ordained in 1929 and, after serving briefly as secretary to the Bishop of Brentwood, was made chaplain at Cambridge in 1932. He used his own money to establish an agreeable club-like atmosphere in a former inn, renamed Fisher House.

It was the family's trading links with Jerez that had led to his father's Spanish marriage, and accounted for the dark features and aquiline nose that gave Alfred his distinctive appearance. His mother's genes also influenced his mental outlook, for while he had an Englishman's education, upbringing and habits, he lacked that pragmatism and spirit of compromise that so damaged the Catholic Church in England in the post-Vatican II decades.

At times, Gilbey appeared dogmatic; he was, no doubt, right from a Catholic perspective to point out in *We Believe* that artificial birth-control was sinful, but it was not that Catholicism that many married Catholics wanted to hear. Less strict was his attitude towards wealth. "Obviously there are very rich people," he once wrote. "Equally obviously, there are those on the borderline of starvation or beyond it. But there is no such

thing as a norm from which departure is sinful."

Given the Spanish connection, it is probable that his political views were influenced by the slaughter of nuns, priests and bishops by the republicans in the opening months of the Spanish Civil War. According to Gilbey: "Envy and jealousy are sins. Robbery is no less robbery if it is committed by the state than if it is committed by an individual."

It was such views that found him an admiring constituency among conservative Catholics. He was appointed a Grand Cross of the Order of the Sovereign Order of Malta and officiated at fashionable weddings, funerals and baptisms. He was quite unembarrassed to be seen beagling, and it was consistent with his lifestyle that, after leaving Cambridge, he went to live at the Traveler's Club in Pall Mall. There he had a small oratory under the roof, and early each morning would take the number 14 bus to say Mass at the Brompton Oratory in the old Tridentine rite.

Gilbey's enduring value, however, lay in the clubland "character" or chaplain to the Catholic upper classes but the devoted priest, whose patient instruction drew many into the Church and sustained the faith of those in his charge through troubled times.

Piers Paul Read

Alfred Newman Gilbey, priest, born July 13, 1901; died March 26 1998

Jozef Kroner

Up the high street, into the limelight

JOZEF KRONER, who has died aged 73, was a leading and much-loved figure in Slovak theatre and cinema, who briefly achieved international fame with his performance in the Oscar-winning 1965 film *Shop on the High Street*.

Born in Staskov, in central Slovakia, he never attended acting school, starting his working life instead in a machine factory at Poviski Bystrica. There he became an enthusiastic member of the firm's amateur dramatic group, alongside his father, who directed some of the plays. Spotted in an amateur theatre competition in 1948, he was quickly recruited to the Slovak Chamber Theatre.

Subsequently, he moved on to the civic theatre in Martin — a long-established company which has performed at the Edinburgh Festival — and, in 1952, was awarded a state prize for his performance in the title role of a Soviet play, Leonid Rachmanov's *Professor Polozhnyy*. In 1956, he joined the company of the state theatre in Bratislava.

Kroner had made his film

debut in 1950 in *Katka*, the first feature film directed by Jan Kadar, who was to become a seminal figure for the new Czechoslovak cinema of the 1960s. Small in stature, with a lean, lined face, sharp nose, pursed mouth and watchful look, his very distinctive appearance in no way restricted his range of delicately-nuanced characterisations, already evident in early films like *Vlado Bahr's Virgin Earth* (1954) and Andrej Lettrich's *The Wooden Village* (1955). His rich comic skills shone in *The Devil Never Sleeps* (1958), directed by Peter Solan and Frantisek Zacek, and *Quadrille* (1957), directed by Josef Medved and Karol Krska.

By the end of the 1950s, with such films as *Bahna's The Last Witch* (1957) and Jan Lasko's satirical *The Brave Thief* (1958), he had become one of Czechoslovakia's most popular screen personalities. With his distinctive, incisive voice, he also became a well-loved radio and television personality, winning new generations of fans over

many years with his bedtime children's stories.

With *Shop on the High Street* (1965), he was reunited with his first director, Jan Kadar, by this time regularly teamed with Elmar Klos as his co-director. In the film, Kroner plays the easy-going, unprincipled village handyman, who is appointed "Aryan controller" of a Jewish button shop, and finds himself developing a dangerous sympathy for the deaf old lady who owns it.

The teaming of Kroner and Ida Kaminska, the great veteran of the Warsaw Yiddish Theatre, remains a virtuoso display of great screen acting: Kaminska's performance earned the film a second Oscar nomination, for best actress.

Kroner worked again with Kadar and Klos on *Adrift*, but production was halted by the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968. When it was eventually released in 1971, Klos's name was removed from the credits. Kroner himself, though keenly sensitive to the oppressiveness of the socialist establishment, was never an open dissident and

his career seems to have weathered all the political storms.

He was much in demand by directors in other countries of the eastern bloc and worked in Bulgaria, East Germany and especially Hungary, where he made eight films between 1976 and 1991. He was generally his best, as dubbed by the Hungarian actor Gyula Szabo, who came creditably close to capturing Kroner's special timbre.

Three of these productions were directed by the gifted Karoly Mark, including *Anker Witz* (1982), the first eastern European film to deal openly with a lesbian love affair, set against the background of post-1956 political repression. Kroner was outstanding as a newspaper editor, an essentially decent and honest man, riven by the politics of compromise. Mark recalls Kroner as "incredibly professional and committed, enormously intelligent and above all gifted with a fantastic sense of comedy".

KRONER never had any ambition to be a star, he said of himself. "I don't like fame. I actually hate it. Fame is like advertising — the day after tomorrow no-one will remember it. If winning fame were at the top of my list, I would not love what I do, which is my work and the people who help me in my work. When I left home, my mother said to me, 'Be strong, my child.' With a blessing like that, how could I accept the feeling of fame?"

Kroner officially retired from the company of the state theatre in 1984, at the age of 60, but had remained very active in theatre, film and television. Both he and his actress daughter, to whom he was very close, resolutely refused to work in commercials.

Kroner wrote a number of books of humorous memoirs, several of which titles declared a special private passion: *Actor on a Fishing Rod*, *Actor Not Only on a Fishing Rod and With a Camera and a Fishing Rod*.

A special memorial commemoration was held in the Slovak national theatre in Bratislava on March 20, Kroner's 74th birthday.

David Robinson
Jozef Kroner, actor, born March 20 1924; died March 12, 1998



Kroner... with Ida Kaminska in the Oscar-winning film Shop on the High Street

Jackdaw



Can't cook...

THE Prodigy "bought flowers", the Stone Roses "would happily make you a cup of tea" and Iron Maiden "were lovely". Mouse, top caterers to pop stars, will happily trash every illusion you held about bad mannered, loading musicians.

Restaurant-trained Mouse has turned what, in 1984, was a one-woman operation into the catering company favoured by the hungry famous. Despite running her business from a small house in south London, she provided all the food for the world-touring Blur, Charlatans, Prodigy, Madonna,

Massive Attack and Pulp. But it's her star clients, Oasis, whom she finds the warmest of them all. "They respect women," she says.

"In the beginning they wouldn't eat anything complicated with the herbs or even gravy. Now they love my chicken cashew nuts. But if I did too much posh food, Noel would have a word."

Not that there aren't problems feeding pop stars, the appetite-suppressing qualities of cocaine being perhaps the most troublesome. "It really pisses me off if you've worked hard and no one comes to dinner," she grumbles.

Meantime, Mouse has a list of people she has foreseen she will work with one day, from the famous (Goldie) to the once famous (Steeve McS). Most of all, though, she'd like to cook for Björk.

The Face on the stars who can't cook... won't cook.

Rouge trader

"SOME people just did not want to be associated with [Nick Leeson], like Singapore Airlines," he continues.

"They threatened to sue us if we showed any of their planes in the film."

Despite restrictions on Leeson's visitors, the film's director, James Dearden — writer of *Fatal Attraction* — did manage to speak to him in prison. "No-one can visit him other than his family," explains Raphael. "I think James discovered that he was distantly related to Leeson. That's how he got in."

Not being related to Leeson in any way, McGregor's request for an audience with the man formerly known as "the king of the exchange" was denied. The actor was quietly relieved. "I'd have been embarrassed," McGregor says. "What would I say? 'Hi, I'm playing you in a movie and you're rotting in jail.'"

Ewan McGregor playing FTSE, in *Neon*.

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail: jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax: 0171-713 4366; write Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER

Hannah Pool

Birthdays

Herb Alpert, bandleader, 63; Prof Patrick Bateson, animal behaviourist, 60; Roger Black, athlete, 32; Richard Chamberlain, actor, 63; Robbie Coltrane, actor and director, 48; Alan Duncan, Conservative MP, 41; John Fowles, novelist, 72; Al Gore, US vice-president, 50; Nagisa Oshima, film director, 66; Jane Reed, media executive, 58; Lord (David) Steel, former leader, Liberal Democrats, 60; Sid Weighell, former railway union leader, 76; Nicholas Winterton, Conservative MP, 60.

A Country Diary

CHESHIRE. The chiffchaffs are back. The arrival of this migrant songster is a milestone each year, a much welcomed addition to the bird-sounds of early spring, and not least an assurance of what will follow. The timing of its return to our local woodlands has been remarkably consistent over the years. Looking back through my notes, I find that the dates of the first singing bird recorded have regularly been between the March 11 and 16 and this year has followed the pattern — March 13. I was on an early morning

walk when I heard the quiet, repetitive call in a sheltered birch and willow covert by the side of the road; it was so quiet that at times it was lost amongst the other voices coming from the small wood — chaffinch, wren, duncock and mistle thrush. I eventually found it amongst the branches of a silver birch, busy feeding, and only occasionally stopping to sing. Having probably arrived during the night, it must have been anxious to replace the energy used up during the long journey from its wintering grounds around

may have given). The project, Citizenship and Crime, has been developed by the league over four years. They are anxious to emphasise that they have always been entirely independent of government.

IN AN article in *Guardian Sport*, March 27, Page 5, we said that the two Chelsea goalkeepers, Ed De Goey, who is Dutch, and Dmitri Kharike, who is Russian, "are hoping to be rivals in France [for the World Cup] this summer." They had abandoned hope by

the time the piece was written: Russia failed to qualify after being defeated by Italy.

TONY BLAIR's constituency, Sedgefield, accidentally became (and remained) Sedge-moor, in an article headed, Tony's angels in the north, Page 3, The Week, March 28.

It is the policy of the *Guardian* to correct errors as soon as possible. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' Editor, Ian Mayes, by telephoning 0171 239 9589, between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Fax: 0171 239 9897. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

Death Notices

DUCKWORTH, Sarah. Suddenly on Tuesday, March 24th, Sarah Duckworth (née Smith), wife of John Duckworth, 60, of The Western Chilterns Hospice, St. Neots, Cambs. Buried at St. Neots, Cambs. on Friday, March 27th, 1998.

MAYNARD, Joan. Born July 1921, died 27th March 1998, aged 76. Funeral, St. Friday 3rd April, 10.30am, 2pm at St. Dunstons Church, 200 Piccadilly, London W1A 1AA. Buried at St. Dunstons Church, 200 Piccadilly, London W1A 1AA. Buried at St. Dunstons Church, 200 Piccadilly, London W1A 1AA. Buried at St. Dunstons Church, 200 Piccadilly, London W1A 1AA.

MOORE, Jean. Suddenly on 27th March, after a long and painful illness, Jean Moore, wife of John Moore, 60, of The Western Chilterns Hospice, St. Neots, Cambs. Buried at St. Neots, Cambs. on Friday, March 27th, 1998.

NEWLAND-SMITH, Chris. Passed away suddenly on March 28th, 1998. Donations to Mary's House, 120 Piccadilly, London W1A 1AA. Buried at St. Dunstons Church, 200 Piccadilly, London W1A 1AA.

YOXALL, Alice. Died on March 27th, 1998, aged 105 at St. Dunstons Church, 200 Piccadilly, London W1A 1AA. Buried at St. Dunstons Church, 200 Piccadilly, London W1A 1AA.

Memorial Services
HINLEY, A Memorial Service for Professor Sir Henry Hinley, OBE, MA, FRS, Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, of the History of International Relations and the St. John's College Chapel on Saturday 2nd April 1998 at 12.00 noon, followed by a reception at the College. The College Clerk, St. John's College, Cambridge, CB2 1TT.

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Analysis Divorce

Putting an end to trouble and strife

The Government would like to promote happy families, but, if a ring turns out not to be forever, then it would prefer separation without tears. By **Clare Longrigg** and **Clare Dyer**



THE enduring British tendency towards divorce has been occupying ministerial minds much of late. But even as the Foreign Secretary was publicising his own domestic arrangements over the weekend — divorced two weeks ago, to be remarried on April 19 — some rather more wide-ranging marriage plans were being debated. Rather too many of us, it appears, have been finding our marriages ending in acrimony, a situation only too familiar to Robin and Margaret Cook. And the state is increasingly keen to intervene. One route is by ending the quickie divorce that has allowed the Cooks to end their marriage so swiftly. This will cease when the divorce provisions of the 1996 Family Law Act come into force, creating a one-year period before a settlement is permitted, and a new emphasis on mediation. But ministers are also increasingly keen to offer help to couples even before they marry. According to reports yesterday they want the state to provide information packs and guidance when couples first apply for a marriage licence, which would prepare them for some of the pitfalls ahead. They would also encourage them to attend special classes in marriage preparation.

The Lord Chancellor's Department has for some time backed projects that seek to minimise the costs of divorce (not least those to the legal aid budget). Yesterday it launched another in south-west England, in which "parenting plans" will help parents prepare for the future of their children after divorce or separation. Last year, the department funded 13 pilot projects — including courses in marriage preparation.

The lessons for state inter-

vention do not look promising. Two of the courses, in Plymouth and in Glossop, were designed as secular introductions to marriage, for people wary of counselling. Neither course succeeded in attracting many punters, and both have had their funding cut this year.

"We wrote a report saying how disappointing the take-up had been," said Laurie Gill, project manager at Glossop Marriage Resource. "We had stands at bridal fairs and GPs' surgeries, but we didn't get much of a response. The parents thought it was a great idea, but the young couples said, 'What would our peer group say?' Or they'd say, 'We've been living together for three years, we know everything about each other.'"

"In 70 per cent of couples attending pre-marriage courses, at least one partner is Catholic," says Brenda Gleave, project manager with Marriage Care. "We wanted to take the successful model of marriage preparation out to the secular world. But it takes a long time to build up trust in outreach work."

Peter McCarthy, researcher at the Centre for Family Studies at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, does not have great faith in the notion of pre-marriage counselling. "One of the great difficulties would be getting people to use it," he said. "Half of those that go to Relate indicate that they should have gone earlier."

One problem seems to be getting information out to couples. Of the 78,000 people who seek counselling from Relate every year, 38 per cent drop out after the first session because it was not what they wanted or expected. In a recent report on mediation (1), Peter McCarthy wrote that marriage has changed from a structure with defined familial responsibilities, to the pursuit of personal happiness. These changes increased pressure on couples and heightened the risk of conflict. McCarthy points out that 25 per cent of couples who seek help from Relate are already separated.

Where there may be more scope for success is in community outreach. One Plus One has focused in its work on the

time in a couple's life when they are in contact with health professionals — the birth of a child. It is also a time when they might run into relationship trouble. "Couples tend not to seek intervention until there is a crisis," said Penny Mansfield, director of One Plus One, which trains health professionals to spot problems in young parents. "The vast majority of people do not go for counselling when they are in difficulty. They don't want to get help until it's very bad."

WHILE some outreach projects have successfully lodged themselves at GPs' surgeries, others have had to obtain an even stronger foothold in the community. Honor Rhodes is director of Family and Community Care at the Family Welfare Association in Peterborough, which provides marriage preparation and counselling for Asian communities.

Since September the counsellor has had 70 to 80 individual sessions with couples, and the same number of individual sessions. She has also run six-week courses for six single-sex groups. Renewed funding was partly dependent on groups' self-assessments. The FWA had positive feedback from 90 per cent of couples, and mosques continue to refer couples to them.

But if preparation courses for marriage have only limited success, ministers believe much more can be done to help couples going through a divorce. Both Lord Mackay and Irvine, the former and present Lords Chancellor, have been keen to mitigate some of the damaging effects of divorce, particularly for the children. Research has shown that children emerged better adjusted from the aftermath of divorce if their parents managed to co-operate over future child care.

Litigation and court proceedings institutionalised their hostility and hardened their positions. With mediation they would sit down with a neutral third party who would help them reach their own agree-

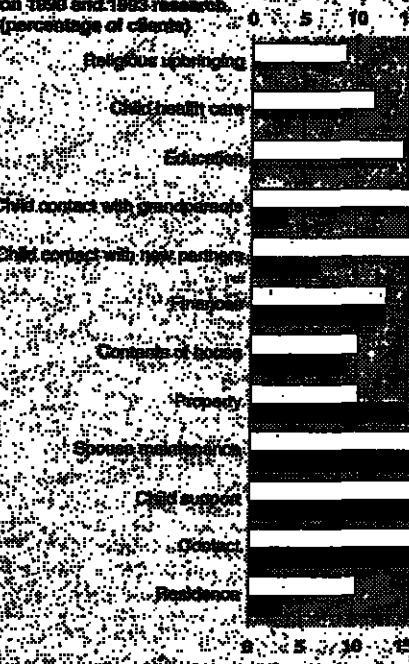
The beginning of the end

The Family Law Act emphasises the role of mediation when a marriage is breaking down. Mediation is a process of decision-making, and is distinct from counselling; an impartial mediator helps the divorcing couple to find their own solutions, thus minimising acrimony. These are the main stages in the new divorce process.



Where the problems lie

Breakdown in marriages: three years after mediation, based on 1996 and 1997 research (percentage of clients)



How mediation works

The mediator

Mediators are not lawyers. They are trained to help people to find their own solutions to their problems. They are impartial and do not take sides. They are trained to help people to find their own solutions to their problems. They are impartial and do not take sides.

The mediated

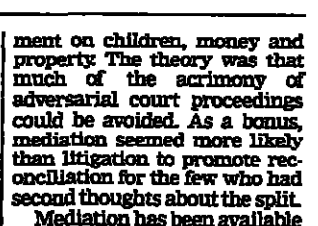
Mediation is a process of decision-making. It is a process of decision-making. It is a process of decision-making. It is a process of decision-making. It is a process of decision-making. It is a process of decision-making.

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Harriet's new deal 8



ment on children, money and property. The theory was that much of the acrimony of adversarial court proceedings could be avoided. As a bonus, mediation seemed more likely than litigation to promote reconciliation for the few who had second thoughts about the split.

Mediation has been available for 20 years, but the take-up has been low. But divorce exerts a huge toll on the legal aid bill, often to little effect. A study by Gwyn Davis, now Professor of Socio-Legal Studies at Bristol University, found that many divorce solicitors juggled huge caseloads for long periods without achieving much. Couples eventually reach a settlement at the doors of the court that could have been achieved months or even years earlier.

The Family Law Act aims to change that. When section 29 of the Act comes into force, no one (with limited exceptions) will get legal aid to finance a divorce battle over money, property or children without first having the case assessed to see if it can be resolved by mediation. The success of that provision will be crucial to any substantial savings to the legal aid budget. Pilot schemes in mediation have been going on since last autumn on a voluntary basis but few couples have come forward. The first pilots of section 29 have got under way this month in Northamptonshire and part of central Bristol. With a limited exception, designed mainly to cover cases of domestic violence, all would-be legal aid applicants will have to go for mediation assessment if their solicitors' offices come within certain postcodes.

But the idea could turn out to be an ambitious flop. "I think there has been a slight worry that there may be another 'Child Support Agency' that will blow up in their faces," says Karen McKay of the Law Society.

The chief problem is that while a court can impose an order on an unwilling party to mediation, it is a contradiction in terms to force someone to submit to mediation. People will be able to apply for legal aid if a mediator deems them unsuitable for mediation. But the only obvious criterion anyone can think up for unsuitability is unwillingness to mediate. But instead of being able to say so to their solicitor, they will be sent to a mediator who will be paid by the Legal Aid Board to receive the same message.

So what's to stop every would-be litigant simply refusing to mediate and getting legal aid? There is a carrot known as the "statutory charge", whereby those who receive legal aid and win a lump sum or share of property have to pay their legal costs back to the board from their winnings. The cost of mediation is met outright by the board so the charge won't apply to winnings secured through that route. But the threat of a clawback later has never proved much of a disincentive to battling couples determined to have their day in court.

Sources: (1) Mediation: The making and remaking of cooperative relationships. Relate Centre for Family Studies, University of Newcastle upon Tyne. Graphics sources: National Family Mediation; Social Focus on Families (Office for National Statistics, August 1997); Family Policy Studies Centre; Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Graphics: Paddy Allen; Steve Villiers; Tracie Tso. Researcher: Mark Esphar. Clare Longrigg and Amelia Genderson are Guardian reporters. Clare Dyer is legal correspondent.

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FinanceGuardian

German carmaker plans to double workforce and triple production after clinching £340m deal

BMW to invest £1bn in Rolls

Nicholas Bamister, Chief Business Correspondent

BMW is expected to invest more than £1 billion in Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, the luxury carmaker it has agreed to buy from Vickers for £340 million. BMW, Germany's second largest car company, has already invested £2 billion in the Rover Group, which it bought from British Aerospace for £800 million in 1994. Some of the new Rolls investment may be used to develop a sportier model to fill the gap between BMW's top-of-the-range cars and the more luxurious Bentley and Rolls-Royce vehicles.

The German group promised

to double the workforce at Rolls's Crewe works and triple output to about 6,000 cars a year but it is likely to mean the introduction of modern production techniques.

Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars have always been hand-built, even fairly basic manufacturing techniques such as production lines have only just been introduced at Crewe.

BMW, which has been the front-runner since Rolls was put up for sale last year, fought off bids by German rival Volkswagen and groups of Rolls-Royce enthusiasts.

Vickers' chairman and chief executive, Sir Colin Chandler, said: "The Vickers board believes that BMW's offer for Rolls-Royce is the most attractive in terms of ensuring the continued success of this unique company."

From cranes to planes

1904: Henry Royce, Manchester-based electric crane-maker, produces his first car. Pioneer motorist and aviator Charles Rolls acquires exclusive sales rights for Royce cars. Two years later the pair found Rolls-Royce.

1920: US production starts at Springfield, Massachusetts, but American buyers prefer the British-built cars. Springfield plant closes after only 11 years.

1931: Rolls-Royce acquires Bentley.

1939-45: Rolls-Royce Merlin and Griffon aero-engines are used in leading British second world war aircraft, including Spitfire and Lancaster.

1971: Mounting cost of developing RB211 aircraft engine forces Rolls-Royce into receivership. Rolls-Royce Motor Cars is formed as a separate company.

1979: Vickers buys Rolls car company for £38 million.

1990: Rolls world sales reach record 3,333.

1991: Sales crash to 1,706 under the impact of Gulf war and worldwide recession. Workforce is slashed from 5,000 to 2,300.

1994: BMW is named as engine supplier for next generation of Rolls and Bentley cars. Turbo-charged Flying Spur, fastest Rolls yet, is introduced.

1992-93: Rolls makes £100 million loss.

1997: Now-profitable Rolls put up for sale.

1998: Vickers agrees to sell Rolls to BMW for £340 million.

City sources said that Volkswagen's bid was "in the low £300 millions" and that the other bids were below £300 million.

Vickers estimated that the overall deal was worth at least £400 million. It is retaining Vickers Pressings, which

will make 40 per cent of the bodies for new Rolls and Bentley models and its Cosworth subsidiary will turbocharge the BMW engines for the new Bentley Arnage, expected to be launched in April.

City analysts accepted that

Vickers had got a good price but warned that the engineering group itself might now face a takeover bid, possibly by a break-up specialist.

Rolls, whose fortunes have fluctuated during the last 20 years, is on the upturn. It is back into profit and has just

launched its first new Rolls-Royce model for 18 years, the Silver Seraph, with the new Bentley due next month. Both the new models are powered by BMW engines.

BMW has had no qualms about using its commercial muscle to further its bid pro-

pects. When Mayflower, a British car and bus body builder, was on the point of bidding for the whole of Vickers, BMW torpedoed the deal by saying it would damage its substantial commercial relationship with Mayflower.

The German group also threatened to end the Rolls-Royce engine contract if a rival carmaker — particularly Volkswagen or Daimler-Benz — succeeded in taking over the luxury carmaker.

There were also fears that the Rolls-Royce aerospace group, which licences the Rolls-Royce name to the carmaker, might reconsider the arrangement if the car company was taken over by any other firm than BMW, with whom it has an aeroengine joint venture.



Vickers shareholders will have to approve the Rolls sale at an extraordinary general meeting, which will probably take place in May.



Crewe change... but it is business as usual for the 2,600 workers on the Rolls production line

PHOTOGRAPH: CHRISTOPHER THOMSON

Alarm finds echoes among workforce

David Ward in Crewe and Colin Weston

A NEW left-hand-drive Rolls-Royce Silver Seraph (registration RR1) sat snootily outside the company's headquarters in Badger Road, Crewe, yesterday while the Union flag fluttered overhead.

The German takeover was not yet complete. The Seraph's doors were unlocked, the keys in the ignition. Its alarm would not stop howling, as if in protest.

It was not the British workmanship to blame, simply a missing key fob. When silence was restored it was time to sink into the back seat, play with the fold-down tray and consider the pulling power of the BMW engine and the company which made it.

The German purchase of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars was not unexpected among the plant's 2,600 workers (or Associates, as they are known) but not all were

ready to celebrate, despite promises of a £1 billion investment.

It was a day to abandon any thoughts of not mentioning the war. "It's a sad day for Britain," said one man who has worked at the factory for 23 years. "In 30 years' time, the Germans will own half the world, the way they are going. They didn't manage it in the war so they are doing it now."

His companion, 20 years with the company, was also gloomy. "It's relieved that someone wants to buy the company but it should have gone to a British manufacturer."

Off they went to help on the plant's average weekly output of 40 cars.

In contrast, senior production manager Brian Shenton was delighted. "I'm glad it's a car company and BMW will be great for us. They will be able to invest more in a door handle or an ashtray than another company might be able to put into a whole car body."

Elsewhere, the deal also provoked cautious xenophobia. Kevin Morley, the former Rover executive who fronted a bid from a consortium of Rolls-Royce enthusiasts, said was "very sad the episode had ended this way". He warned that BMW's financial assurances would not be enough to safeguard the good name of Rolls.

"The public throughout the world see it as a British brand, it's not just a question of money, it's a question of public attitudes."

Donald Longmore, secretary of the acquisition consortium, saw the extraordinary general meeting that would be called to endorse the deal as a last-ditch stand. "Vickers is in for an extremely bumpy ride."

Peter Bains, general secretary of the 9,000-strong enthusiasts' club, said: "Most of our aircraft in the first and second world wars were powered by Rolls-Royce engines. Now the people we beat have ended up as the owners."

Rolls-Royce

- Founded in 1906 by Charles Rolls and Henry Royce
- First car sold for £365
- Six out of every 10 Rolls-Royce cars made off on the road today.
- Product: Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars
- Number of employees: 2,600
- Sales: Not published separately
- Profit: Not published separately
- Annual production: 1,918 Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars
- Rolls-Royce emblem: Spirit of Ecstasy emblem designed by Charles Sykes in 1911

'Nun of golden convent' gains Spirit of Ecstasy

David Gow

FOR a widow living in Bad Homburg, a spa town near Frankfurt, yesterday's acquisition by the maker of the Ultimate Driving Machine of perhaps the world's ultimate brand marks the apogee of a long and lucrative love affair with BMW.

Joanna Quandt, aged 70,

known as the "nun in the golden convent" for the frugal, reclusive nature of her life, is worth at least £1 billion — the third-richest woman in Europe, after the queens of Britain and Holland.

With her daughter Susanne and son Stefan, she owns up to two-thirds of Bavarian Motor Works, the now unstoppable firm her late husband Herbert helped rescue

from bankruptcy and the clutches of arch-rival Mercedes almost 40 years ago.

It was not the first crisis in BMW's history. It was founded in the north of Munich in 1916 as Bavarian Aircraft Works out of two failed aviation businesses run by Karl Rapp and Gustav Otto, and, taking on the BMW name, became a public company two years later. After

the 1919 Treaty of Versailles banned Germany from making aircraft, it turned to motorcycles.

Ten years later, in the midst of the depression, it began manufacturing under licence a small car, the Dixi — built in Britain as the Austin 7 by what was to become the last UK volume car producer, in turn bought by BMW for £200 million in 1994.

BMW's own first car hit the roads only in 1932.

After building tens of thousands of aero engines for Hitler's war machine and seeing its plants turned to rubble, BMW did not resume car-making until 1942. Seven years later, unable to sell its limousines or motor-bikes, BMW ran out of money.

On December 9, 1953, shareholders turned down direc-

tors' plans to sell to Mercedes' owner, Daimler-Benz, and Mr Quandt, a main stockholder, stepped in and took an even bigger slice of equity. He put a company insider, Paul Hahnemann, in charge.

But it was an outsider, Eberhard von Kuenheim, who between 1970 and 1983 built BMW into the ultimate financial machine and one of Germany's top 15 industrial firms.

Notebook

Time for No 10 to put fat cats on promised diet



Edited by Lisa Buckingham

A GOVERNMENT which so self-consciously flaunts its business-friendly stigmata is courting trouble.

There is already controversy about access to Number 10 for big business donors. And Tony Blair's administration will almost certainly suffer further humiliation from its decision to raise senior business executives to key advisory positions. It faces a showdown with Britain's boardrooms over the huge pay rises now coming through for captains of industry.

Jan Leschly, the boss of drug group SmithKline Beecham, which has always indulged in US-style executive rewards, has emerged with a package worth £70 million.

The scale of Mr Leschly's rewards is unique in Britain. But he is not alone in earning a sum most people would regard as stratospheric.

The smothering of annual reports which have emerged so far this season suggest there are some gargantuan pay awards in the pipeline — well beyond what reasonably reflects profits growth. Oil group, Lloyds, and Glaxo Wellcome were also prominent in last week's pay rise league tables.

But yesterday there emerged large rises where few would have expected to find them — in the books of former building society boss Alliance & Leicester, which became a stock market company only a year ago.

Peter White, the chief executive, saw his remuneration — including bonuses — increase by 24 per cent to £200,000 while Trevor Billiard, in retail, had a 46 per cent rise and Richard Pym, finance director, saw his package swell by 84 per cent.

A notably unrobust set of recommendations from Sir Ronnie Hampel means the Government cannot rely on investors to cool boardroom ardour to set a standard for the wider workforce currently accepting wage increases of about 4.5 per cent.

If its values and former criticisms are to mean anything, the Government must prove its mettle on this issue. And now, before similar rises are rubber-stamped for next year.

Between the lines

Rolls-Royce is a brand name to kill for. Yet, it appears to be one which no one is prepared to pay

much for. An explanation is needed when Diago can pull in £1.1 billion for Dewar's Scotch and Bombay Sapphire gin but when BMW can apparently get away with paying just £340 million for a luxury motor group boasting probably the most desirable name in the world.

Yes, the two drinks brands make more profit — about £55 million compared with the £40 million expected from Rolls-Royce this year. The car company devours investment capital and has a roller coaster financial track record although optimists predict profits of £80 million in 2000, most of which will be generated by the relatively cheap Bentley marque.

But the potential to exploit the spirit's names as opposed to exploiting the spirit of ecstasy seems limited. Rolls-Royce is, after all, virtually synonymous with the best. Why not Rolls-Royce suitcases and towels?

There's the rub. The brand name is actually owned by Rolls-Royce, the aero engine group, which used to own the car firm.

It will transfer to BMW on licence only. And then, any attempt to exploit the brand by going down market (a Rolls-Royce family saloon?) would immediately be stamped on. Against a background of such uncertainty Vickers' auction skills look decidedly less suspect.

Wolffson woes

IT COULD well be Waterloo for Wolffson. Unless, of course, the noble Lord who heads mail-order shopping group, GUS, and who is vacating the chair of fashion company, Next, decides to put substantially more on the table to bag Argos before next week's deadline.

GUS was wrong-footed yesterday after American Business Information again trumped its offer for Metro, the US database marketing group which most observers reckon Wolffson should have had sewn up by now.

GUS increased its offer on Thursday, valuing Metro at £545 million, but A&I slapped down another \$3 a share taking the price to \$888 million.

That all came on top of a surprisingly zesty fight-back from Argos, the catalogue shopping company, which had been caught napping when GUS first pounced. Argos unveiled a home shopping venture with Littlewoods late last week in an effort to see off GUS' \$1.6 billion hostile bid.

Such misfortunes mean Lord Wolffson needs to trade on his undoubtedly high stock in the City. But the reserves are running dry.

Last week, as outgoing chairman of fashion group Next, he had to issue a profits warning that sliced a quarter off the share price.

TOURIST RATES — RANK BELLS	
Australia 2,495	Germany 2,000
Austria 2,250	Greece 514.83
Belgium 517.75	Hong Kong 12.84
Canada 2,200	Italy 60.47
Cyprus 0.987	Ireland 1.187
Denmark 112.46	Japan 200.76
Finland 8.150	Spain 253.54
France 10.02	Sweden 2,200
	Switzerland 2,400
	Turkey 588.174
	USA 1,040

Supplied by Reuters (excluding Japan, South Africa and Malaysia)

APR 1 1998

Racing

Punters go for Quest

Ron Cox

FIFTY horses stood their ground in the Martell Grand National at the five-day declaration stage yesterday, with every indication that there will be a maximum of 40 going to post on Saturday for the first time since Party Politics won in 1992.

In the offices it was the 1996 winner, Rough Quest, who was best for money. He shortened to 10-1 from 12-1 with Coral and Hill's after assurances from Terry Casey, his trainer, that the 12-year-old was none the worse for his fall in the Gold Cup.

Quite the opposite, in fact. Casey reported Rough Quest in "terrible form" after parting the gelding himself in a work-out at his Surrey base at the weekend.

The Gordon Richards-trained Addington Boy and the Cup fourth Senior El Be-trutti, who is expected to start Thursday's Martell Cup, surprisingly remained in the big race.

Regarding Senior El Be-trutti, trainer Susan Nock explained: "My husband kept him in because the experts think the race is going to cut up and it would be silly not to keep our options open."

"It is too early to say whether he will run and we will probably know more in 48 hours time. But the horse is cracking from 10-1 to 5-1."

Addington Boy's participation hinges on the results of a blood test, but he is best on good ground and conditions are expected to stay on the soft side. This would also

count against Avro Anson, who ran so well on the Flat at Doncaster last Friday.

Latest forecasts predict further rain for the Aintree area before Saturday, which is good news for the connections and supporters of last year's runner-up Sunny Bay.

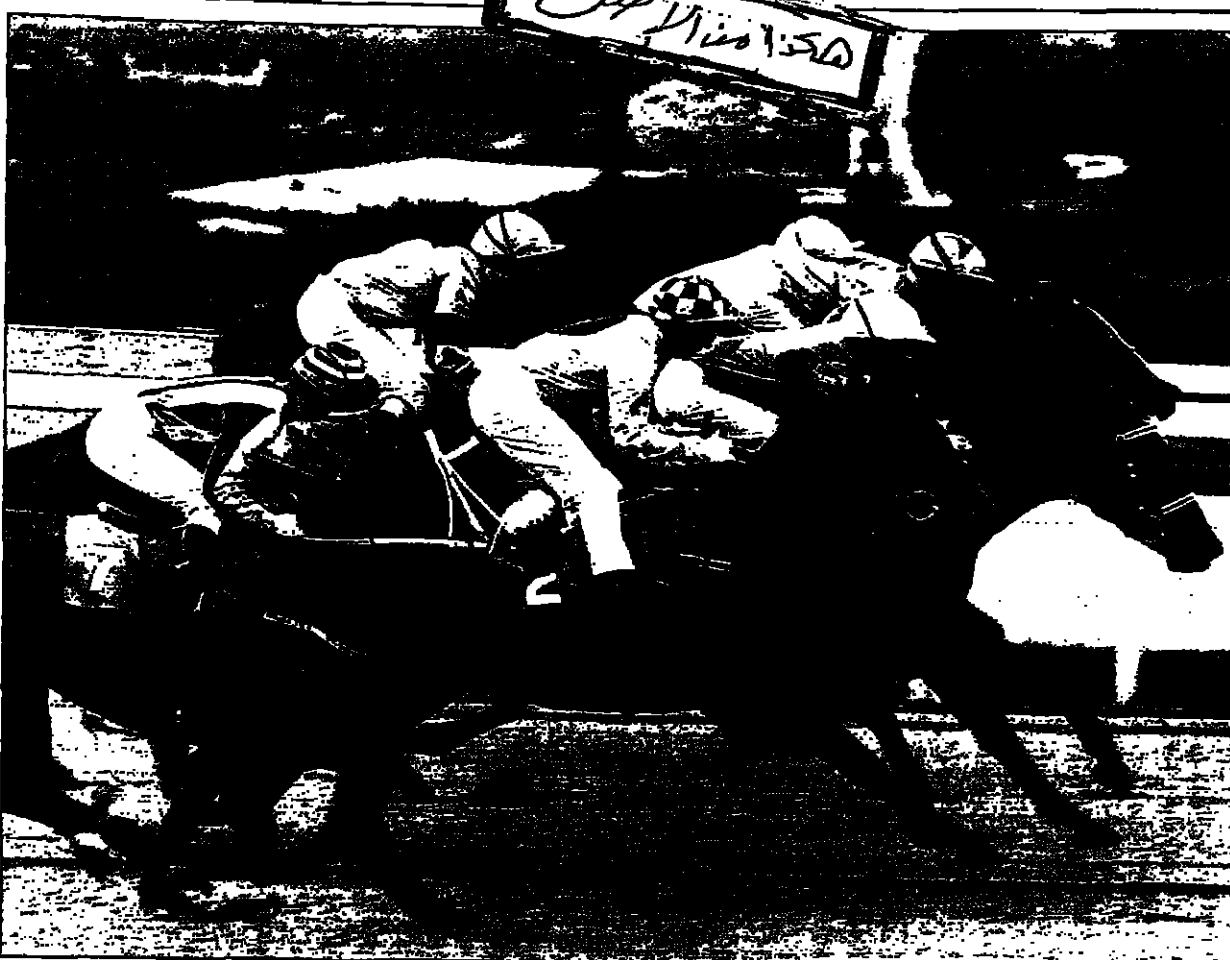
He is 12-1 second favourite with Coral, who clipped both Samles, the mount of Richard Dunwoody, and Him O'Praise two points to 14-1 yesterday, and also saw fit to shorten Clie De Brion from 25-1 to 20-1.

The Irish challenge has dwindled to three and two of them are doubtful. Edward O'Grady has left in Time For A Run, but said: "I will know more tomorrow. I have to speak to the owner, J P McManus. The vet was here yesterday because I thought the horse was a bit flat in his work over the weekend and I wanted him checked out."

O'Grady is also responsible for Gimme Five, who ran badly at Cheltenham, while Pat Fahy, trainer of Dun Belle, has issued a warning that the mare has not been pleasing in recent work.

Cyfor Malta, winner of the Cathcart Chase at Cheltenham, is Coral's 11-2 favourite to follow up in the John Hughes Trophy Chase, run over a circuit of the Grand National course, on Thursday.

Other leading prices are 7-1 Martell Boy and Indian Arrow, 8-1 Frazer Island, 10-1 The Warrior, 11-1 Cherrynut, 14-1 With Integrity and Glamot and 16-1 Pimberley Place, Orswell Lad, Lindens Lottio and Indian Tracker.



Signs And Wonders (check cap), the eventual winner, at the start of the Blackberry Handicap at Lingfield. FRANK BARON

Depreciate should show a profit

DEPRECIATE, fourth best of the first of the season's Showcase Races at Doncaster last Thursday, can justify his position as favourite for today's feature event, the 48's Sprint Handicap, at Newcastle, writes Ron Cox.

After two good wins on the soft side and from stable hands, Depreciate was not quite quick enough in last week's Class B contest, but he takes a drop in class here and

is weighted to confirm Doncaster form with all-weather specialist State Of Confusion, who was sixth, and Gadge (needs farther), who finished seventh.

The thorny subject of the draw enters calculations over Newcastle's five furlongs. Often low numbers are favoured when the ground is on the soft side and from stable hands, two Depreciate (8.25) looks sure to go well.

Pat Eddery, fit from his stint in Dubai, returns to action on the domestic front at Nottingham after his season was cut short last September owing to a back injury.

It has to be significant that he goes to the Midlands track for just one ride, Sagunro (2.30), in division one of the Basingfield Maiden Stakes. Trained by John Gosden, Sagunro made a belated race debut at Leicester last

October. Though unable to cope with surprise winner Shalash, he shaped well and should have learned enough to go one better in this company.

Freddie Head, six-times French champion jockey, celebrated his first win as a trainer when Mulahen scored at Fontainebleau yesterday, and then followed up 30 minutes later with the filly Ta Aruf.

Nottingham runners and riders

RON COX	TOP FORM
2.00 Blue Desert	Overcoming
2.30 Sagunro	The Wild Winger
3.05 Honest Borderer (nb)	Honest Borderer
3.40 Zappa	Overcoming
4.10 Zappa	Overcoming
4.45 Zappa	Overcoming
5.15 Groveller Lad	Groveller Lad

Left-handed, level 11m track with 400 m run. Straight off. Going: Good to soft. Doncaster. Riders: 2.00, 2.30, 3.05, 3.40, 4.10, 4.45, 5.15. Trainers: 2.00, 2.30, 3.05, 3.40, 4.10, 4.45, 5.15. Owners: 2.00, 2.30, 3.05, 3.40, 4.10, 4.45, 5.15.

Some day winners: None. Blinded after race: 3.05 Primus. Viewers: 2.00 Jokers; 3.05 Jokers; 3.40 Jokers; 4.10 Jokers; 4.45 Jokers; 5.15 Jokers.

Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. J. Jumps.

2.00 WATNALL SELLING STAKES 3YO

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000

2.30 BASSINGFELD MAIDEN STAKES (Div 1)

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000

3.05 BASSINGFELD MAIDEN STAKES (Div 2)

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000

3.40 NEW BASFORD HANDICAP 3YO

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000

Trainer watch

Horses leaving their last run for a new trainer today: 2.00 Primus, 2.30 Primus, 3.05 Primus, 3.40 Primus, 4.10 Primus, 4.45 Primus, 5.15 Primus.

Saturday's big race

3.45 MARTELL GRAND NATIONAL HCAP CHASE

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000

4.10 BAGTHORPE HANDICAP

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000

4.45 KIMBERLEY HANDICAP

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000

5.15 SHELLEY COMMON HANDICAP

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000

3.25 48'S SPRINT HANDICAP (SHOWCASE RACE)

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000

3.25 48'S SPRINT HANDICAP (SHOWCASE RACE)

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000

3.25 48'S SPRINT HANDICAP (SHOWCASE RACE)

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
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3.25 48'S SPRINT HANDICAP (SHOWCASE RACE)

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000

3.25 48'S SPRINT HANDICAP (SHOWCASE RACE)

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000

Newcastle mixed Jackpot card

RON COX	TOP FORM
2.20 Sagunro	Overcoming
2.30 Sagunro	Overcoming
3.05 Sagunro	Overcoming
3.40 Sagunro	Overcoming
4.10 Sagunro	Overcoming
4.45 Sagunro	Overcoming
5.15 Sagunro	Overcoming

Left-handed course of 11m with 400 m run. Straight mile which rises throughout providing stiff test. Going: Good to soft. Doncaster. Riders: 2.20, 2.30, 3.05, 3.40, 4.10, 4.45, 5.15. Trainers: 2.20, 2.30, 3.05, 3.40, 4.10, 4.45, 5.15. Owners: 2.20, 2.30, 3.05, 3.40, 4.10, 4.45, 5.15.

Some day winners: None. Blinded after race: 3.05 Primus. Viewers: 2.20 Jokers; 2.30 Jokers; 3.05 Jokers; 3.40 Jokers; 4.10 Jokers; 4.45 Jokers; 5.15 Jokers.

2.20 48'S MAIDEN STAKES 2YO

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000

2.50 48'S MAIDEN STAKES 2YO

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000

3.25 48'S SPRINT HANDICAP (SHOWCASE RACE)

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000

3.25 48'S SPRINT HANDICAP (SHOWCASE RACE)

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000

3.25 48'S SPRINT HANDICAP (SHOWCASE RACE)

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000

3.25 48'S SPRINT HANDICAP (SHOWCASE RACE)

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000

3.25 48'S SPRINT HANDICAP (SHOWCASE RACE)

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000

4.00 SUNDERLAND SHEET SALES HANDICAP

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000

4.30 HOLYSTONE MAIDEN STAKES

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000

5.05 ST MOWEN HANDICAP

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000

5.05 ST MOWEN HANDICAP

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000

5.05 ST MOWEN HANDICAP

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000

5.05 ST MOWEN HANDICAP

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000

5.05 ST MOWEN HANDICAP

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5.05 ST MOWEN HANDICAP

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
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5.05 ST MOWEN HANDICAP

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000

Results

HAMILTON	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000

5.05 ST MOWEN HANDICAP

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000

5.05 ST MOWEN HANDICAP

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
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Football

United tie up Nevilles until 2005

Michael Walker and Peter White

AS THE young elite at Manchester United sign or think about signing new deals, Steve Bruce, knows he must take a pay cut to stay with Birmingham City.

United want David Beckham, Paul Scholes and Nicky Butt to agree new long-term contracts after Gary and Phil Neville yesterday pledged their futures to the champions. The brothers have signed seven-year deals which will keep them at Old Trafford until 2005.

They had been on five-year contracts which were not due to expire until 2002, but the club wanted to reward the England internationals for their progress this season. Beckham, Scholes and Butt are on similar five-year agreements and United are keen to renegotiate their deals.

United see the England players — along with Wales's Ryan Giggs, who signed a new five-year deal last week as their future and are determined not to lose any of them to their Premiership rivals or to foreign clubs under the Bosman ruling.

Gary Neville has continued to mature for United this season and the 23-year-old has captained the side twice in recent weeks. Phil, two years younger, has established himself this season.

Bruce, meanwhile, is to be offered a one-year extension this week. Birmingham's manager Trevor Francis will negotiate with Bruce, whose contract expires in the summer, and the defender is likely to be offered only half

his current salary of £17,000 a week.

Francis said last night: "I would love Steve to stay with us for another season, and I hope he agrees to sign."

Bruce has indicated that he wants to continue playing, even though he was offered managerial positions earlier this season. He has figured in 35 of Birmingham's 47 games this season.

The Aston Villa manager John Gregory is ready to extend the contract of the striker Julian Joachim, who has re-established himself in the senior side.

Joachim's current deal runs out in the summer but Villa have a one-year option on his services and Gregory is ready not only to take that up but to add a further two years.

Craig Hignett, despite the consolation of being given a Coca-Cola Cup loser's medal by Paul Gascoigne after Sunday's 2-0 defeat by Chelsea, will leave Middlesbrough at the end of the season.

The 28-year-old has been unable to agree a new contract with the manager Bryan Robson and the arrival of Gascoigne, as well as expected summer recruitment drive by Robson, has meant his demotion in the midfield pecking order.

"If he was to give me what I wanted I would stay," Hignett said, "but it is not going to happen."

Hignett, who scored three goals during Boro's Coca-Cola Cup campaign, was not even on the bench on Sunday and this seems to have been the last straw for a player who signed with Middlesbrough from Crewe six years ago.

City, page 20

Time running out for Wright

Ian Ross

LIVERPOOL'S Mark Wright is almost ready to call time on one of the longest professional careers in British football. International centre-back added yesterday that he could shortly be forced into premature retirement by a persistent injury problem.

Wright, now 34, has not played since last September and has been unable to find a cure for a back injury he has had for several years.

"If I break down again then I will certainly have to think about calling it a day," he said. "I can run but the problem comes when I attempt to twist and turn."

Wright hopes to make another attempt at a meaningful comeback next Monday in a reserve game against Everton. "I think I need to play in a competitive fixture before finally making up my mind," he said.

Since making his senior

debut as a 17-year-old, Wright has made more than 600 first-team appearances for Southampton, Derby County and Liverpool. In an England career which spanned almost a decade he won 45 caps.

Everton's hopes of avoiding relegation from the Premier League may well hinge on the outcome of exhaustive tests on a knee injury sustained by their Scottish international forward Duncan Ferguson last week.

Ferguson, arguably the Merseyside club's most consistent player in recent months, visited a specialist yesterday to assess the damage caused during a training-ground accident. Although he will not require immediate corrective surgery he is doubtful for Saturday's crucial league match at Tottenham.

Mick Brown has resigned as Blackburn's chief scout and is set to rejoin Manchester United in a similar capacity. Brown was assistant manager at United under Ron Atkinson.

Cup pair in doubt for Sunday ties

ROBERT LEE, Newcastle United's captain, and the Arsenal striker Ian Wright look certain to miss Sunday's FA Cup semi-finals, writes Michael Walker.

Lee injured a hamstring in the 2-1 defeat at Southampton on Saturday and Wright's long-standing groin strain is taking longer to heal than expected.

The Newcastle midfielder has been ruled out of the relegation battle with Wimbledon at Selhurst Park tonight, when Wright was due to turn out for Arsenal reserves to prove his fitness for Sunday's tie against Wolves at Villa Park.

"I'm definitely out of the Wimbledon game," said Lee,

"and I'm struggling to make the semi-final (against Sheffield United at Old Trafford) on Sunday. I'm having intensive treatment but it's not looking good." Since hamstringing strains usually take a fortnight to mend, Lee may also miss the league visit to Highbury on Saturday week.

With Dennis Bergkamp serving a three-match ban, Arsenal's manager Arsène Wenger had hoped to have Wright fit for Sunday. "We just have to go from day to day to see how he responds," he said. "But he will not play against Wolves unless he has at least played for 45 minutes in a game in training."

Team talk

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TheGuardian INTERACTIVE



Professional approach... Solicitor David Williams hopes to roll back the Bosman ruling if he succeeds Lennart Johansson as president of Uefa. PAUL RED

Today Brechin, tomorrow Europe

Lawrence Donegan meets the man set to step from director of a Scottish minnow to the most powerful post in European football

AS FOOTBALL fans search for a Scottish minnow to the most powerful post in European football, they are likely to find a man who is not a minnow at all.

David Williams, who is set to step from director of a Scottish minnow to the most powerful post in European football, is a man who is not a minnow at all.

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Golf

Workshop lad turns his back on States

David Davies at Ponte Vedra on Westwood's choice

LEE WESTWOOD is a very rapidly becoming a very rich young man. His fifth-place finish in the Players Championship, over the difficult TPC course here on Sunday, was not his most successful performance in the United States — he came second and won \$216,000 (£130,000) in the Sarazen World Open last November — but it was probably his best.

Westwood gave the event a twist when he won the Open champion Justin Leonard, what he called "a head start" by taking 74 in the first round and then dropping two more shots in the first eight holes of the second round.

"You'd think," he said on Sunday, "that you'd miss the cut from there." But from that unpromising beginning he played quite superbly, completing the last three rounds in 71, 68 and 69 for a total of 282, only four behind Leonard.

But better than the score, and the placing, was the manner of his achievement. He remained composed throughout, refusing to react as he had last week at Bay Hill where, in the final round, he dropped a couple of strokes and went for some impossible shots trying to recoup.

"You've got to be a quick learner over here," he said. "I've learned this week that I'm good enough to compete in one of the best fields we get all year."

The money he won, \$146,000, was sufficient to give him a simple decision to compete in the States. "I'll play no more than 13-14 events here," he said. "The rest of my year will be in Europe and the rest of the world."

But that may not be so in the years to come. Westwood is not indifferent to the superstar status and the fact that the greens, as they were on Sunday, are almost always steeply contoured and fast.

By the end of last year, after last year's success in which he won the Volvo Masters, came second in the Sarazen, won the Visa Taiheyo Masters and then the Australian Open to accumulate \$530,000 in five weeks.

Westwood, like so many real champions, recognises that money of itself means nothing in golf. The Workshop youngster, he is still only 24 — wants major championships, and if the past week showed anything it is that he finds his form at Augusta he has the game to be a threat in the Masters.

It has also gone a long way towards allaying the fear that, after his emergence on the scene in 1997, he might struggle in 1998. It is worth recalling his words of December last year.

"As you start beating people who have won majors you realise that you must be able to win them too. I don't want to say I will win a major, because you see someone like Colin Montgomerie who is such a good player who hasn't done so yet."

"But," in a reference to Montgomerie's age, 34, "I wouldn't want to go the next 10 years without having won one."

Paul Cayard, the overall race leader, was second with EF Language, and before the day was out Gunnar Krantz, Prostad with Innovation Kvaerner, and Grant Dalton's Merit Cup were in for a dentale. Early yesterday morning there was one of the closest finishes in the race when John Kostecki with Chessie Racing and Paul Standbridge with Dennis Comer's Tashiba finished less than three minutes apart, just under a day behind the winner.

Westwood... Rich form



Sailing

Lost spinnaker cannot stop Smith's surge

Bob Fisher

AFTER victory in the 4,750-mile leg from Sao Sebastiao to Fort Lauderdale, Lawrence Smith and the crew of Silk Cut can be allowed their first smile since starting the Whitbread Round The World Race last September in Southampton. Success had eluded them until this sixth leg, but confidence has now been added to their undoubted boat speed.

"Vince (Gee, the navigator) and I worked very well together," said Smith, "and once we'd picked the right route it was just a matter of getting the boat speed. We have the fastest boat and this time we made the right moves at the right time and got the result we deserved."

Seake, an old campaigner in Smith's crew, was not the first-choice navigator, a decision Smith regrets, but he made a difference in a variety of ways. He gives the boat a more mature attitude and Smith respects his advice.

The win was not as easy as they made it look. Smith finally revealed that on the first night they lost one spinnaker overboard when Silk Cut broached in a squall. He said it would have "come in very useful in the conditions we had last week, and EF Language was able to sneak past us. But the guys made good use of alternative sails to get us back in the lead."

Paul Cayard, the overall race leader, was second with EF Language, and before the day was out Gunnar Krantz, Prostad with Innovation Kvaerner, and Grant Dalton's Merit Cup were in for a dentale. Early yesterday morning there was one of the closest finishes in the race when John Kostecki with Chessie Racing and Paul Standbridge with Dennis Comer's Tashiba finished less than three minutes apart, just under a day behind the winner.

Westwood... Rich form

Williams, who is set to step from director of a Scottish minnow to the most powerful post in European football, is a man who is not a minnow at all.

SportsGuardian

Premiership

West Ham United 3 Leeds United 0

Hammers have Europe in sights

Martin Thorpe

A THRILLING exhibition of direct, played-to-foot attacking football straight from the Academy handbook took West Ham into seventh spot and one step nearer a Uefa Cup place last night.

Leeds had scored nine goals in their previous two games in their search for a European spot but they just could not live with the London side's verve and vivacity as West Ham scored three and threatened more.

Chelsea's Coca-Cola Cup final win on Sunday actually boosted both of these teams' hopes of winning a place in Europe. The west London club, having already booked their Uefa Cup spot at Wembley, the Uefa Cup qualification threshold moves from sixth place in the Premiership down to seventh.

The way West Ham began last night, though, suggested they were in no need of any extra help. With his only mid-field ball-winner Steve Lomas suspended, Harry Redknapp had little choice but to compensate with all-out attack and stuff the team's centre with ball-players — Eyal Berkovic, Trevor Sinclair, Stan Lazaridis and John Moncur.

Even without the suspended Frank Lampard Jr, it was an enforced gamble which paid rich early dividends as the home side took a 2-0 lead within 33 minutes. Their first goal arrived after only eight following an early spell by Leeds in which Lee Bowyer had seen his goal-bound shot somehow blocked by Bernard Lama's outstretched right leg.

Berkovic swung over a corner from the left, the Leeds goalkeeper Nigel Martyn came out to punch, missed the ball and John Hartson steamed in at the back post to slot home his 22nd goal of the season.



Leap in the dark... Lee Bowyer of Leeds dodges a challenge from West Ham's John Moncur at Upton Park last night

PHOTOGRAPH: PHIL COLE

West Ham's second involved Martyn in another cock-up. He came running out of his area to deal with a ball being shepherd back by his

own defender Martin Hiden. The two Leeds players met and tangled, the ball bounced clear and Samassi Abou was left with an open goal.

It was not all bad for the Leeds goalkeeper. On 11 minutes he had made a smart double save, first from David Unsworth's shot then Berkovic's.

Leeds' way on 54 minutes when Bowyer's high ball towards goal dropped just in front of Lama's crossbar. The French keeper elected to punch but the ball only found Aife Hasland 12 yards out. His shot looked to be heading for the net until David Unsworth stuck out a foot to divert the ball wide.

But West Ham were not to be denied their third. On 68 minutes Rio Ferdinand found Berkovic who dismissed the attentions of his man-marker Gary Kelly to uncork a sweet pass to Ian Pearce. The wing-back ran towards goal, Harte missed his tackle and, with Martin committed, Pearce shot into an empty net.

West Ham (3-4-1-2): Lama; Potts, Ferdinand, Unsworth; Pearce, Sinclair, Moncur, Lazaridis; Berkovic (Lomas, 76min); Abou (Gronqvist, 86), Hartson. Leeds (4-4-2): Martyn; Maybury, Motson, Hiden, Harte; Halls, Hasland, Kelly, Bowyer; Sinclair; Henson; Redknapp. A White (Chatteris-18-80).

A goal so nearly came

vic on the rebound. But West Ham's threat was unrelenting. Three minutes from half-time they came even closer to a third as the wing-back Ian Pearce was released on goal, dribbled round Martyn and saw his six-yard shot hooked off the line by Ian Harte.

Leeds still threatened occasionally. On 40 minutes Bruno Ribeiro brought a great low one-handed save from Lama. But West Ham's policy of running directly at the Leeds defence nearly brought another goal just three minutes after the restart when the Frenchman Abou scythed through the Leeds defence with a 30-yard jinking sprint into the penalty area and fed Hartson to his left. Unfortunately the Welsh striker opted to shoot with his weaker left foot and blasted over.

There are some, however, particularly those who prefer a more analytical approach to their reporting, who will not be mourning. Despite that the Radio Times postbag might indicate, the Morgan approach does not find universal favour among sports fans. And there are plenty who would rather undergo extensive dental reconstruction without the benefit of anaesthetic than spend any more

Hail the man who killed off Cliff Morgan



Jim White

COMPARED with him, Graham Taylor had it easy, Michael Atherton was in the comfort zone and Douglas Hall got a soft ride. Over the next month or so James Boyle, controller of BBC Radio 4, will become Britain's most vilified man. Already W H Smith stores are experiencing a run on green ink as the most conservative listening audience in the country reacts with sly, fume-flecked indignation to the changes Boyle is about to bring to his station.

An altered time for The Archers, no more shipping forecasts on FM, The Moral Maze slumped to the evenings: tune in to the vitriolic content of the listener-response programme Feedback and it appears much of his audience believes that the controller's tinkering with the schedule has put the very fabric of the nation under threat.

According to his critics, though, the darkest of Boyle's many crimes, the infamy that will mark him for all time, is this: he is the man who put Cliff Morgan out to grass. Yes, this coming Saturday morning Morgan will slip on his rose-tinted spectacles, unpack his portfolio of old mates masquerading as guests and present Sport on Four for the last time. In 26 minutes of unadorned whimsy will be no more.

For 11 years and more than 400 shows, Morgan has given us his idiosyncratic view of the world of sport. Coupled with an approach to his guests that makes Hello! magazine's technique look like the Spanish Inquisition, his gentle, soft-centred agenda has built him a devoted audience. Many of his listeners have no particular interest in sport but were simply wooed by those mellifluous Welsh tones.

There are some, however, particularly those who prefer a more analytical approach to their reporting, who will not be mourning. Despite that the Radio Times postbag might indicate, the Morgan approach does not find universal favour among sports fans. And there are plenty who would rather undergo extensive dental reconstruction without the benefit of anaesthetic than spend any more

Saturday mornings listening to Morgan buffing up shiny leather with his tongue. Indeed, whichever side you fall on, no one could argue that Morgan is the kind of interviewer Alastair Campbell would love to see installed in the Today studio, particularly on the day the Boss is due in. When interviewing, he doesn't ask questions, he makes statements, invariably so supportive of his guest that they could moonlight as scaffolding. No programme has ever been complete without at least one appearance by that perennial Morgan favourite. "But, you know, you brought such joy to the game."

This is not to suggest that interviewees should be barbed on a Paxman-style verbal gridlock, nor that there isn't room in this cynical era for a bit of niceness. It's just that guests ought to be asked the right questions. Rarely are Morgan's promptings of the sort to produce interesting responses, though. On last Saturday's programme a power-bored racing champion was asked: "You were once world champion, that must have given you a big kick?"

Martin O'Neill, the Leicester manager, was another guest on the penultimate programme and in a month in which the English representatives failed yet again to progress in the European Cup, this former winner might have been asked his opinion about where they were going wrong. Instead Morgan kept the conversation going with rhetorical interjections such as: "The love of football still beats in your heart, doesn't it, Martin?"

NOTHING wrong with being kind to your guests, of course. But Morgan bows to no one in an over-the-top politeness which, from a less legendary source, might be deemed the apex of sycophancy. O'Neill, for instance, was introduced thus: "I was struck by his energy, wit and elegance." Energetic, definitely. Witty, possibly. But elegant? Anyone who has seen O'Neill leaping around on a football touchline as if his underpants were playing host to a colony of sea anemones would suspect not even his mother could call him that. From Good Friday, Martin Bashir will be the new voice of Radio 4 sport. Given the Morgan following, it will be no easy task. But at least there is now the chance that listeners might be served up the occasional shaft of illumination. After all, when faced with the Princess of Wales during their Panorama encounter, Bashir did not say: "But you know, Diana, your wedding day gave us all so much joy."

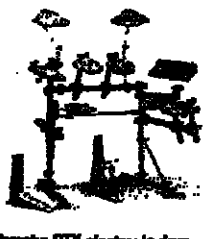
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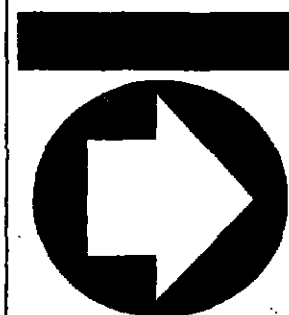
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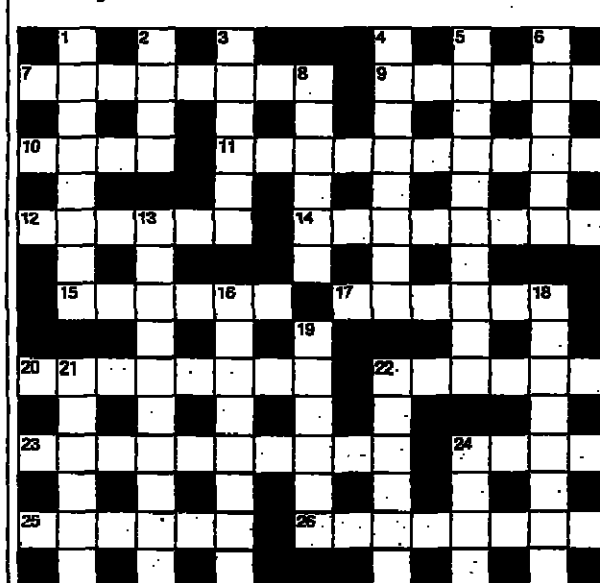


Cherished, but not spoilt, privileged, but not neglected, neither Christopher nor Daphne had any apparent reason to veer off the rails as they did. But together they turned out to be a lethal combination. The Central Park teenage murderers

G2 p8

Guardian Crossword No 21,236

Set by Paul

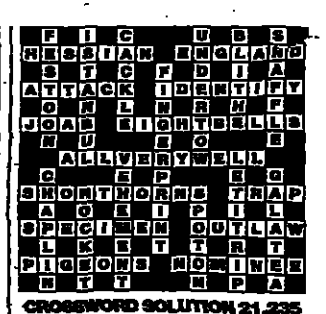


Across

- Defender required by team that's bottom (8)
- Supply weapons for our protection in battle (6)
- Little women in space with open mouths (4)
- Endure at the sharp end of the position of one's views (10)
- Time and place for silver (8)
- Carriage has not broken the record: on the contrary (8)
- Nan has wig adjusted to provide shelter (6)
- Conventional city girl follows information (8)
- Man wants most of Greek and Indian food (8)
- Travelling west, head home to hurt (6)
- Dog to write novel which gets on Shetland's wick (10)

Down

- Steps taken in Cuba by goddess arresting an outlaw (8)
- Miss Gollightly? (4)
- Heavily inclined as I'd be to be awkward (6)
- Pig — certainly not Cowes! (8)
- Sort: he's most rough, but displays quite the opposite (10)
- How to make pi? A vegetable? (6)
- Please, when uncertain, pass in time (6)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 21,236

- All-powerful drug not mine to spread around (10)
- Chatted with Toad, not Jack and Edward (8)
- Baked bread born up in Scotland (8)
- Everyone upstanding in epitaph for upstanding supporter (6)
- Owl's nose (6)
- Country definitely not right to intervene (6)
- Old Hindu held by Maharaja indefinitely (4)

Solution tomorrow

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John's 10.15.20